

ROSENBERG INSIDER NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE

2014

JANUARY/FEBRUARY
MARCH/APRIL
APRIL/MAY
MAY/JUNE
JUNE/JULY
JULY/AUGUST
AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

2013

JANUARY/FEBRUARY
FEBRUARY/MARCH
MARCH/APRIL
APRIL/MAY
MAY/JUNE
JUNE/JULY
JULY/AUGUST
AUGUST/SEPTEMBER
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER
OCTOBER/NOVEMBER
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER
DECEMBER/JANUARY

2012

JANUARY/FEBRUARY
FEBRUARY/MARCH
MARCH/APRIL
APRIL/MAY
MAY/JUNE
JUNE/JULY
JULY/AUGUST
AUGUST/SEPTEMBER
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER
OCTOBER/NOVEMBER
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER
DECEMBER/JANUARY

2011

JANUARY
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DECEMBER

2010

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DECEMBER

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NOVEMBER
DECEMBER

2013 Employee Awards Banquet

"Willie D. McQueen, Jr. Employees of the Year" Named

The City held its annual Employee Awards Banquet Wednesday, December 11, to recognize City employees for their accomplishments over the last year. The awards presentation and luncheon included service awards, City Manager's Awards for Excellence, and culminated in the naming of seven (7) employees as "Willie D. McQueen, Jr. Employees of the Year."

The prestigious award, named in honor of Rosenberg Police Sergeant, Willie Daniel McQueen, Jr., is awarded to recognize employees nominated by their peers for going above and beyond the call of duty in providing services that enrich the City and community. Members of the McQueen family, including his daughter Alexandria McQueen who presented the awards to the employees, were honored guests at the luncheon.

Employees were recognized for efforts including coordinating community events (Lydia Acosta, Parks); serving as the Range Master for the Police Department's shooting range (Sgt. William Henry, Police); rescuing victims from a burning building, and securing the scene for search and rescue (Lt. Thomas Brown, George Velasquez II, Justin Pfitzner, and John Villarreal, Fire); coordinating the Citizen Fire Academy (George Velasquez, Jr., Fire); and providing excellent administrative support for multiple departments (Sherri Nichols, Assistant City Manager, Planning, Capital Projects, Code Enforcement and Health).



2013
*Willie D. McQueen, Jr.
Employees of the Year*

**John Villarreal
Justin Pfitzner
George Velasquez II
Thomas Brown**

2013
*Willie D. McQueen, Jr.
Employees of the Year*

Pictured with Alexandria McQueen

**Sherri Nichols
Thomas Brown
William Henry
Lydia Acosta**



City Manager Robert Gracia also presented three "City Manager Excellence Awards" to recognize staff members for outstanding efforts in fulfilling their job requirements. Recipients (pictured at left) included: John Maresh, Assistant City Manager; Joyce Vasut, Finance Director; and Angela Fritz, Communications Director.

***Congratulations to all City employees
for a job well done!***

Employees Honored for Service and Dedication to City



Karl Zwahr, Utilities
36 Years of Service
Robert Gracia, City Manager
33 Years of Service
Daryl Schmidt, Fire
32 Years of Service

Not Pictured
Dallis Warren, Police
34 Years of Service
William Fain, Police
32 Years of Service



15 Years of Service
George Salinas, Public Works
Maritza Salazar, Finance
Troy Svatek, Fire

Not Pictured
Richard Olson, Fleet



10 Years of Service
Lori Dresner, Finance
Luis Bentancourt, Parks
Terri Bradley, Police

Not Pictured
Latasha Robinson, Police
Amy Shedd, Police



30 Years of Service
Danny Johnson, Fire
Larry Loesch, Fire
Janice Edmonds, Customer Service
Alfredo Garcia, Public Works
Al Davis, Utilities



20 Years of Service
Paul Mendoza, Parks

Not Pictured
Barry LeBlanc, Fire
Frank Rohan, Fleet



5 Years of Service
Angela Fritz, Communications
Thomas Brown, Fire
Patrick Spillers, Fleet
Jason Kosler, Fire

Not Pictured
Garett Craneck, **Michael Garcia**,
Jason Johns - Fire
Matthew Brawley, **Bryan Leach**, **Kevin Monfort**, **Justin Pannell**, **Christina Salinas**,
Ariel Soltura - Police

Street Sweeping Program Expanded

The City of Rosenberg has begun an expanded street sweeping program. Funding for the program was approved as part of the City's FY2014 budget. A map outlining the complete area to be serviced is available at: www.cityofrosenberg.com/streetsweeping.

Sweeping Services of Texas will sweep 97 curb miles of curb and gutter streets once monthly. Street sweeping is **generally scheduled to occur the Thursday and Friday of the first full week of each month**, however it can be delayed or prolonged due to unforeseen weather circumstances or other delays. Upcoming sweeping dates include:

January 9-10,
February 6-7, and
March 6-7, 2014.

Sweepers cannot sweep around vehicles parked along the roadway.

Residents are encouraged to remove vehicles parked along the street, so that the sweeper may complete as efficient and effective a route as possible. Sweepers will generally be in neighborhood areas between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. and sweeping will occur along major thoroughfares in the early morning before traffic increases.

Street sweeping is intended to prolong the life of the City's street and drainage infrastructure by removing dirt, sand, and other contaminants from the roadway, and by extension, the City's storm drainage system. Although improved aesthetics and cleanliness can be added outcomes of sweeping, it is not intended to remove all fallen leaves in the streets. Residents and businesses are reminded that it is a violation of City ordinance to sweep or blow leaves into the roadways, and that yard waste is collected weekly on Mondays, through the City's solid waste contract.

Questions regarding the City of Rosenberg's street sweeping program may be directed to Citizen Relations at (832) 595-3301.



New Building & Fire Codes Take Effect January 1

The City of Rosenberg recently adopted updated Building and Fire Codes.

All plans submitted after January 1, 2014, must be compliant with the following:

- 2012 International Building Code
- 2012 International Residential Code
- 2012 International Mechanical Code
- 2012 International Plumbing Code
- 2012 International Fire Code
- 2012 International Fuel Gas Code
- 2012 International Existing Building Code
- 2012 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code
- 2009 International Energy Code
- 2008 National Electrical Code

Contact (832) 595-3500 with questions.



Christmas Tree Pick-Up Guidelines

With the City's weekly green waste collection, Christmas tree disposal has never been easier!

Simply place your tree out at the curb with lighting, decorations, etc. removed, and trees will be disposed of by Republic with green waste service on Mondays.

Contact (832) 595-3301 with questions.

Rosenberg INSIDER
Jan. / Feb. 2014

Fire Department Employees Honored

The Rosenberg Fire Department, pictured below with Mayor Morales, held their annual awards banquet on December 5, 2013.



Awards were presented by Chief Wade Goates and Assistant Chief Darrell Himly. Department honorees included:



George Velasquez II
Firefighter of the Year
15 Years of Service



Floyd Engel
Retired Volunteer
70 Years of Dedicated Service

Lieutenant Thomas Brown
5 Years of Service
Firefighter Jason Johns
5 Years of Service

Not Pictured
Firefighter Garrett Cranek
5 Years of Service



Lieutenant Troy Svatek
15 Years of Service
Firefighter Barry LeBlanc
20 Years of Service
Chief Rick Todish (Ret.)
40 Years of Service

Not Pictured
Firefighter Mario Chapa
15 Years of Service

ROSENBERG DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



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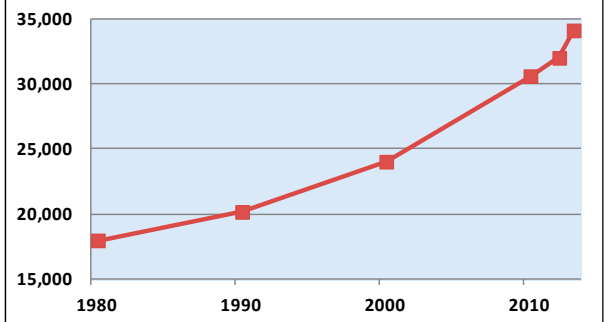
2013 Economic Indicators

2013 has been a strong year for the economy in Rosenberg. Several indicators, including home construction, sales tax, employment, and unemployment have indicated a rebound from the economic downturn of the past several years.

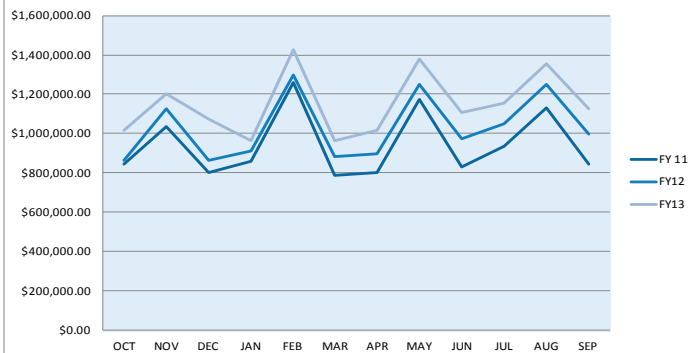
During 2013, the City saw the start of construction on five hundred and ninety-three (593) new homes in the city limits and extra-territorial jurisdiction (ETJ). At the same time, eight hundred and ninety-three (893) new residential lots were platted in the city limits and ETJ. Platting is the administrative process for subdividing property to be developed and sold. The numbers are a significant increase over previous years in which new home construction was much slower, and are a positive indicator of an uptick in the area housing market and local economy due to property and sales tax growth from new development.

Construction in the single and multi-family residential market over the past three years has caused a significant period of growth in the City's population. According to the City's Planning Department, the estimated current population is 34,127, up eleven percent (11%) from the 2010 census population of 30,618.

**City of Rosenberg Population Growth:
1980 - 2013**



Sales Tax Revenue FY 2011 - 2013



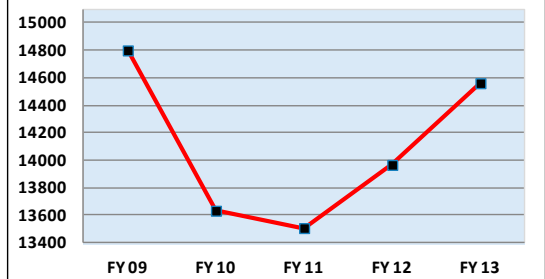
Sales tax also increased significantly for the City of Rosenberg in 2013, and FY 2013 (ending September 30, 2013) finished more than ten percent (10%) ahead of FY 2012. During FY 2013, the City received \$13,736,664 in sales tax. Sales tax revenues are split in the City's budget, with half going to the general fund for City operations, one quarter going to property tax reduction, and one quarter going to economic development projects.

In terms of raw employment, the City saw an increase in the monthly average, with nearly six hundred more new jobs in 2013 than in 2012. During 2013, the City averaged 14,561 people employed in Rosenberg during any given month. Overall employment has almost completely rebounded to pre-recession levels.

Unemployment continued to drop in 2013, averaging six and two-tenths percent (6.2%) for the year. This is the lowest yearly average since 2008, and far below the highest level of eight and eight tenths percent (8.8%) experienced in January 2011.

Overall, the economic outlook for Rosenberg continues to show signs of a sustained recovery from the recession that began in 2009. Early indicators for 2014 of residential and retail growth predict a continued period of expansion and strengthening of our local economy.

Average Annual Employment



The Rosenberg INSIDER is
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the City of Rosenberg.

CityofRosenberg.com

March / April 2014

Rosenberg INSIDER

Rosenberg Parks Provide Opportunities for Humans and Animals Alike

City of Rosenberg green space and parks are reaping the rewards of community partnerships and collaboration. Throughout the years, the City has partnered with Scout troops on various Eagle Scout projects which have added amenities to our natural spaces for the betterment of both animals and humans.

On a cold, rainy Saturday in December, Thomas Heath of Scout Troop 1880 completed his Eagle Scout Project which consisted of constructing and mounting an Osprey nest platform along the Brazos River in the back of the Rosenberg Cemetery on Avenue D. Heath raised all the funds for the project, and a local electrical company donated the power pole and set it once the Osprey platform was complete. The tower will allow the birds to have a proper nesting site, and help keep them from nesting on power poles.



The Parks Department is working with a County non-profit group, Fort Bend Green, to formulate a Master Plan for a Brazos Recreation Corridor through technical assistance from the National Parks Service. The plan will identify recreation and conservation opportunities for Fort Bend County, and help clarify projects and partners. Some related projects included to-date are the Brazos River Canoe Trail, and Live Oak trees planted in every park in Rosenberg through the Apache Tree Foundation.

Additionally, the Department, along with the Coastal Prairie Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists, was recently honored by the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) for the Seabourne Park Ecosystem Restoration Project (see RDC page 4 for more details) - another collaborative effort.

"It's an honor for the project in Seabourne Creek Park to be recognized by H-GAC as one of the best in the 13-county area," said Darren McCarthy, Director of Parks and Recreation.

Photos courtesy Rick Adams and Boy Scout Troop 1880.



New Recreation Programs Added

New recreation programs have been added at the Civic Center, including children's dance classes, yoga classes, and ZUMBA classes. Visit www.cityofrosenberg.com/programming or call (832) 595-3520 for more information.

SAVE THE DATE!

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

R.W. Lindsey Gazebo @ Seabourne Creek Nature Park

Saturday, April 12 - 3 p.m.

www.cityofrosenberg.com/egghunt



Neighborhood Meetings Open Dialogue



Since her election in the summer of 2013, Councilor Amanda Bolf has held several neighborhood meetings, intended as a way to “get to know the citizens and allow the citizens to get to know me.”

The meetings so far, according to Bolf, have followed a “block party” sort of format, and have allowed for an opening of dialogue between the City and constituents in District 4. The Police and Fire Departments have participated, and the events allow the public to interact with Rosenberg first responders and public safety officers, showing that the

City cares about their issues and concerns. The most recent District 4 Neighborhood Meeting was held Saturday, January 25, in Los Pinos (above) and included a demonstration of the City’s new quint ladder truck (below).



Councilor Bolf plans to continue having her monthly meetings throughout District 4. Keep your eyes peeled and ears open for one in your neighborhood next!

District 4 Focus



The geographic area encompassed by District 4 is one of the areas with the fastest growth in Rosenberg, as well as many upcoming capital projects which benefit the City as a whole, including improvements to Airport Avenue, Interstate 69, and Dry Creek.

Not only is District 4 home to Brazos Town Center, which generates tremendous sales tax revenue for the City at-large, but it is also home to a large portion of the City’s newest housing developments which are driving population growth in the City.

DEVELOPMENT

According to the City Planning Department’s most recent development report, 2013 saw nearly twice as many housing starts (642) than in the previous year, and a continued increase in lots platted (893). A large portion of this development is occurring in District 4, or in areas in our extraterritorial jurisdiction immediately adjacent thereto. “These development indicators,” stated Rosenberg Mayor Vincent M. Morales, Jr., “coupled with strong sales tax revenues, employment figures, and continued commercial development, help paint a bright future for Rosenberg.”

CAPITAL PROJECTS

City contractors have begun work on the first phase of the **Airport Avenue Reconstruction Project**, which began in early February. The project will span from FM 2218 to just west of Graeber Road, and will improve the existing two-lane asphalt roadway with open roadside drainage to a three-lane, concrete roadway with improved drainage. A continuous sidewalk will be added to the north side of the roadway within project parameters, and improvements will also be made to water and sanitary sewer lines as required. Construction is anticipated to last through the summer, and will necessitate closures that will restrict traffic to westbound only from FM 2218 to Longhorn Drive. Detour signage will be in place, and drivers are asked to exercise caution when in the area.

The City also recently sold the remaining bonds from the 2006 Bond Election to continue **Dry Creek Drainage Improvements**. Stay tuned for more information on these improvements.



Special Election May 10, 2014

At their February 18, 2014 Meeting, Rosenberg City Council adopted Ordinance 2014-04, ordering a Special Election on May 10, 2014.

The purpose of the election is to submit to the qualified voters, for adoption or rejection, a proposed ordinance and/or resolution prohibiting the City from donating specified land to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) or any other person or entity for the “One-Way Pairs” Project, per a petition received from the citizens of the City of Rosenberg on December 06, 2013.

Early voting will be available at any Fort Bend County location from April 28 - May 6.

Election day voting will take place at Rosenberg City Hall, 2110 4th Street.

Please visit:
www.CityofRosenberg.com/Elections
for more information.

Image Committee

February & March BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS

Landscape

Ben & Esperanza Cavazos
1401 Township Court

Jose & Maria Zelaya
1609 Cotter Court

Renovation

The Burger Barn
1101 Damon Street

Rodney Hardegree
1201 Alamo Street

John & Carol Moore
5914 Homestead Road

Rosenberg INSIDER
Mar./Apr. 2014

*City Facilities
will be closed
Friday,
April 18, 2014,
for Good Friday!*



Cart Assistance Program

If you, or someone you know, is physically unable to move their carts to the curb for pickup, you may be eligible for the City's cart assistance program.

To participate in the program, there cannot be anyone at the location physically capable of moving the cart.

Interested individuals should contact Citizen Relations at (832) 595-3301 for more information, and to register.

Cart Repair

BROKEN CARTS MUST BE REPORTED TO CITIZEN RELATIONS SO THEY CAN BE PLACED ON A LIST FOR SERVICING!

To request your broken garbage or recycle cart be repaired, please contact Citizen Relations at (832) 595-3301.

Addresses are conveyed to Republic Services, the City's solid waste contractor, who will then schedule the carts for service. This is typically done on Wednesdays by a separate crew following regular waste collection.

Image Committee Honors Rosenberg "Unsung Hero"



The Rosenberg Image Committee officially presented the group's first ever "Unsung Hero Award" to recipient Anthony Ray Becerra at the February 18 City Council Meeting. The honor was created to recognize citizens who go beyond the call of duty by doing exceptional good deeds for their fellow man.

Members of the Image Committee joined Becerra and his wife, to honor his commitment to the betterment of Rosenberg through his work with the Lord's Kitchen which helps feed and clothe the homeless.

Pictured left to right are Image Committee members: Sergio Villagomez, Rufus Guebara III, Lila Villagomez, Nancy Talasek, and Linda Carroll; Anthony Ray Bacerra and wife, Yvonne; Mayor Vincent M. Morales, Jr. and Councilor William Benton.

Adopt a Shelter Pet Today!

Are you in need of a furry friend to greet you at the door when you get home, to accompany you on walks, to warm your lap, and to give you unconditional love? If so, look no further than our Rosenberg Animal Shelter!

The City's shelter, located at 1207 Blume Road, has numerous cats and dogs available for adoption, and new animals are constantly in need of a loving home. The newly opened shelter has a cattery to observe the felines looking for forever homes, multiple dog pens with a grassy area for them to play on, and a visitation room where families can "try out" their prospective pet with kids, etc.

In addition to the comfy new shelter, the City's \$28 adoption fee is quite a bargain. The adoption fee includes the initial well-pet vaccination, de-worming medication, and microchip insertion and registration. Animals adopted from the shelter are also required to be sterilized and have a rabies vaccination, and Animal Control works with two different area veterinary clinics to provide these services at a discounted price for adopted animals.

Animal Control Officers, with the help of Tractor Supply Co. and shelter volunteers from the community, participated in an adoption event on Saturday, February 15. Of the five animals at the event, three were adopted that day on the spot.

Pictured at the event are: Animal Control Supervisor Jackie Jurasek and "Hank", with his new owner, Sherry Cardinal; and shelter volunteer, Carolyn Seiler, cuddling "Aimie" who was quite tired at the end of the day!

For more information on available pets, and how to adopt them, visit www.CityofRosenberg.com/Pets, or call (832) 595-3490.



ROSENBERG DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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Texas Master Naturalist Partnership Pays BIG Dividends at Seabourne Creek Nature Park



The cooperative working relationship between the City, the Rosenberg Development Corporation (RDC), and the Coastal Prairie Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists has paid huge dividends over its relatively short life span for Seabourne Creek Nature Park and Rosenberg residents. Seabourne Creek Nature Park, the City's premier outdoor destination, might be called a "hidden gem" by many, but the Coastal Prairie Chapter is out to erase that misnomer with an aggressive Master Plan for the Nature Park to help make it a regional destination for education, nature tourism, and good old fashioned relaxation.

Projects undertaken through the partnership to-date include a prairie restoration area, completion of a butterfly garden with interpretive signage, entrance signage and trail markers, pergolas, nesting/roosting spots, wetlands rejuvenation, and rehabilitation of the fishing lake, to name just a few. Additionally, the Chapter holds free monthly bird

hikes open to the general public on the first Wednesday of each month from November through May (the next dates are April 2 and May 7) at 8 a.m., and an annual "Prairie Heritage Festival," in November. The November bird hike served up a double helping of surprises - a first time ever sighting of the American Avocet documented with a whopping six birds (below) in the newly created wetlands area (making them the 161st species viewed at the park since the bird list was started there a few years ago); and the sighting of a tagged Monarch butterfly in the Butterfly Garden (above).

The Rosenberg Parks Department, along with the Coastal Prairie Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists, was recently honored by the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) for the Seabourne Park Ecosystem Restoration Project; another testament to the collaborative projects taking place in Seabourne Creek Nature Park. "It's an honor for the project in Seabourne Creek Park to be recognized by H-GAC as one of the best in the 13-county area," said Darren McCarthy, Director of Parks and Recreation. "The Coastal Prairie Chapter has been instrumental in bringing Seabourne Creek Nature Park closer to its potential to be the premier outdoor education destination in Fort Bend County, and their efforts to-date have dramatically improved the park and natural habitat." Chapter members were on hand at the February 4 City Council Meeting, to receive a Certificate of Appreciation for their work on the project. Those present (from left to right) were: Lynn Trenta, Carol Pawelek, Rich Adams, Doug Simon, Jim Butcher, Karl Baumgartner, Barbara Willy, Linda Lourim, Mayor Vincent M. Morales, Jr., Parks Director Darren McCarthy, and Councilor and Chapter Member Cynthia McConathy.



The RDC has funded numerous community development projects through its 4B statutory authority since its creation in 1995. The City's park system has been identified by the RDC for significant investment over the years, including major improvements to facilities and equipment, and identifying, creating, and improving programming. A large part of this endeavor has been focused on developing Seabourne Creek Nature Park through support of the Texas Master Naturalist program and projects. Many of the Master Naturalists' Nature Park projects have been undertaken through funding provided by the RDC, and leveraged through the volunteer labor and expertise of the Master Naturalists.



At their February Board meeting, the RDC agreed to fund the next phase of projects the Master Naturalists will undertake in the Park including "building a floating observation dock in the Wetlands Pond, native prairie and wetlands demonstration gardens, covered picnic tables in the family area, planting additional trees, and stocking fish in Seabourne Lake," said Karl Baumgartner of the Coastal Prairie Chapter, all of which lend themselves toward the purpose of the group's work in Seabourne Creek Nature Park - "to provide an outdoor park where community members can relax, enjoy and learn about the natural world."

The Texas Master Naturalists program is sponsored by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. For additional information call (281) 633-7033 or email mmcdowell@ag.tamu.edu.

Park photos courtesy Coastal Prairie Chapter Texas Master Naturalists.

Special Election - May 10, 2014



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The purpose of the election is to submit to the qualified voters, for adoption or rejection, a proposed ordinance and/or resolution prohibiting the City from donating specified land to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) or any other person or entity for the "One-Way Pairs" Project, per a petition received from the citizens of the City of Rosenberg on December 06, 2013.

Early voting will be available at any Fort Bend County location from April 28 - May 6. Election day voting will take place at Rosenberg City Hall, 2110 4th Street.

Visit: www.CityofRosenberg.com/Elections for more information.

April is Keep America Beautiful Month

April has been declared "Keep America Beautiful Month" in the City of Rosenberg. City Council recognized the local efforts of Keep Rosenberg Beautiful (KRB), and presented a proclamation to group representative, Nancy Talasek, at the March 18 City Council meeting.

KRB is a project of the Rosenberg Image Committee, and was recently recognized by Keep Texas Beautiful with a second place Government Award (cities under 50,000 population) for its community beautification efforts over the last two years.



For more information on KRB, or to find out about upcoming projects, contact Citizen Relations at (832) 595-3301.

Solid Waste Cart Placement Regulations Adopted



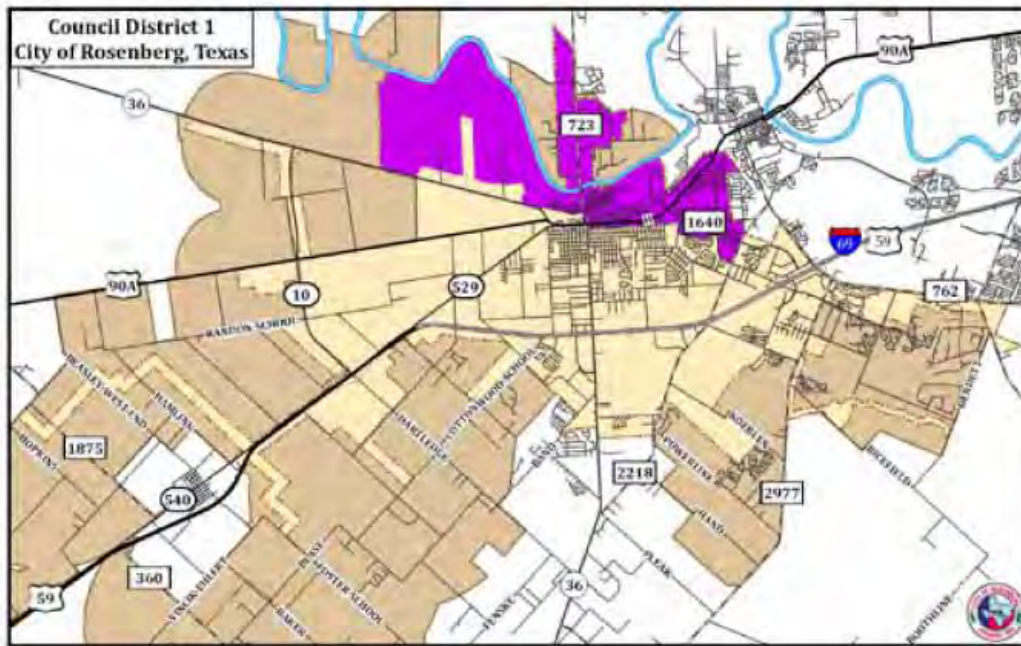
Rosenberg City Council adopted revised criteria for Solid Waste collection at their March 18, 2014 meeting.

Aimed at improving safety and community aesthetics, the new guidelines **restrict cart placement at the street right-of-way to between the hours of 12:00 p.m. (noon) the day before pickup and 8:00 a.m. the morning following collection.** Carts should be placed out no later than 7:00 a.m. the day of collection to ensure service.

For more information, visit www.CityofRosenberg.com/SolidWaste, or contact Citizen Relations at (832) 595-3301.

*City facilities will be closed
Friday, April 18, 2014, for Good Friday,
and Monday, May 26, for Memorial Day.*

District 1 Focus



Rosenberg District 1 encompasses a large portion of our City's historic core, and is home to many exciting developments and initiatives, including the newly-designated Rosenberg Cultural District which generally covers the historic downtown area, and the Houston-Galveston Area Council's *Livable Centers* study which will focus on revitalization of the US 90A / FM 1640 corridor. Additionally, the City has several major infrastructure improvement projects slated that will affect areas within the District's bounds. Keep your eyes on the *INSIDER* for more information on the projects outlined below as they progress!

Water and Sanitary Sewer Infrastructure Improvements

The City has undertaken major sanitary sewer infrastructure improvement projects in District 1 through assistance from Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, and phase IX of CDBG Sanitary Sewer Line Replacement Project will begin in the coming months. Additionally, in March, the City approved submitting a request for CDBG funds to complete phase II of a water infrastructure project that will improve potable water service to Rosenberg's north side.

City Council also recently approved a comprehensive sanitary sewer improvement project that will upgrade key infrastructure for the portions of the City served by Wastewater Treatment Plant #1 (which includes a majority of District 1 served by City utilities). Planned improvements include upgrades to protect the health, safety and welfare of citizens through reduction in system inflow and infiltration. Because of the scope of the overall project, work will be designed, bid, funded, and completed in phases, and will include improvements to the collection system (lines), rehabilitation and replacement of lift stations, and conversion of effluent disinfection at WWTP #1.

Livable Centers Study

The City and the Rosenberg Development Corporation have partnered with the West Fort Bend Management District and the Houston-Galveston Area Council to complete a *Livable Centers* study on two major corridors running through District 1 - Avenue H (US 90A) and Avenue I (FM 1640). The study will assess the two corridors from Bamore Road to Lane Drive identifying potential future projects to revitalize the corridors.

Town Hall Meeting Set for May 1, 2014

Council District 1 is represented by Councilor Jimmie J. Peña. Since his election in May 2013, Councilor Peña has made it a point to facilitate dialogue between community members and the City organization. Councilor Peña spearheaded a small business-focused town hall meeting last fall, and has another town hall meeting, this time geared toward residents and homeowners, set for **Thursday, May 1, at 6 p.m. at Jackson Elementary School** (301 3rd Street).

The formal portion of the May 1 Town Hall Meeting will start officially at 6:30 p.m., and will include a presentation from City staff on image and code enforcement, voting, and City projects. Staff will be on hand to visit with citizens, and to answer questions. All City residents, whether or not they reside in District 1, are invited to attend.



Image Committee

April BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS

Renovation

Millenium Motor Sales

2001 1st Street

Old Main Street Bakery

808 3rd Street



Hurricane Ike Disaster Recovery Program

The H-GAC Hurricane Ike Disaster Recovery Program assists qualified homeowners in Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker and Waller counties by repairing or replacing their Ike-damaged homes. The program has already repaired or replaced over 100 homes in the region.

To be eligible for the program, residents must have owned their homes at the time of the storm, must meet specific income requirements and must show that needed repairs or replacement are not covered by insurance or financial assistance programs. Repair and replacement is also available for certain rental properties.

For more information, visit www.h-gackhousing.com.

Homeowners in Fort Bend County can call or e-mail Zelia Brown at 832-681-2623 or zelia.brown@h-gac.com. Rental property owners can call or e-mail Marc Mansueto at 832-681-2618 or marc.mansueto@h-gac.com.

Rosenberg INSIDER
Apr. /May 2014

Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER)

April 26, 2014
(Rain Date: May 3)

Fort Bend County Health and Human Services will be conducting a CASPER in Rosenberg to assess disaster preparedness in the community.

CASPER is a response and planning tool that involves a random selection of neighborhoods and interviewing people in households, throughout Rosenberg, about their public health needs.

Surveys will be conducted door-to-door in Rosenberg by Fort Bend County Health and Human Services and the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers.

These surveys help define the scope and magnitude of specific public health needs in the community and aid in disaster response and preparedness planning.

The Rosenberg Community CASPER will help Fort Bend County public health and emergency response officials, volunteers, and the community prepare for community recovery after an incident/disaster.

By conducting a pre-disaster CASPER, Fort Bend County will gain a better understanding of how and what to plan for during disaster recovery operations.

For more information, visit www.FortBendCountyHHS.com or call (281) 238-3551.



Rosenberg INSIDER
Apr./May 2014

City Council Appoints Police Chief



At the March 10 Special City Council Meeting, Rosenberg City Council unanimously appointed Dallis Warren Rosenberg's 34th Chief of Police. Warren had served as Interim Chief since November 2013 and prior to that, as Assistant Chief of the Rosenberg Police Department.

"I look forward to serving the citizens of this community as their next police chief and will continue with the same honesty, openness and integrity that I have exemplified throughout my career," said Chief Warren. "I want to thank the Mayor and City Council for the opportunity they have entrusted to me, and I want to thank the men and women of the Rosenberg Police Department for their support and for their unfailing public service to the citizens of Rosenberg."

Chief Warren began his career with the City of Rosenberg as a Police Officer in 1979, and has served in a variety of different capacities over the years, including Sergeant, Detective, and Captain. Chief Warren was promoted to Assistant Police Chief in 2002, and has also served as Emergency Management Coordinator since 2004.

Warren is a graduate of University of Houston – Downtown, Sam Houston State University, and the FBI National Academy. He has served as an instructor for Texas A&M and the National Emergency Response and Rescue Training Center, and as an adjunct instructor for Wharton County Junior College.

"We're grateful for the leadership and commitment Dallis has exhibited to the Department and to the citizens of Rosenberg," said Rosenberg Mayor, Vincent M. Morales, Jr., "and we look forward to working with him to continue to improve Rosenberg each and every day through proactive policing with the community."



PD Engages Community with a little help from their "Friends"

When the Rosenberg Police Department (RPD) began their initial foray into social media approximately 18 months ago, they had a vision for what the medium could do in terms of connecting the Department with the people it serves. After much hard work, that vision has come to fruition and RPD is now considered a forerunner in the Nation for utilizing social media to engage the community and develop meaningful partnerships and information networks to help reduce crime and improve the community's quality of life.

Contrary to many critics, both in the profession and beyond, RPD has proven the power of policing *WITH* the community again and again, and has harnessed the power of social networking to bring thousands into their "family," thereby growing the agency's law enforcement reach exponentially. Just ask RPD Lieutenant Aaron Slater, who headed up the initiative, and who remains an ardent advocate of the powers of community engagement - regardless of the medium.

"Policing is evolving at an unprecedented pace, therefore, police initiatives must be increasingly innovative," said Lt. Slater. "We are blessed to have become one of the most followed and supported police agencies in the United States through proactive marketing campaigns and outreach initiatives such as our use of social media. By taking risks in an effort to be more transparent, we have been able to earn more trust from the community."

The real strength behind the initiatives however, is not the clever, catchy pictures or quotes, or the late night roll calls, it is the heart of the women and men behind the badge. This commitment to service is what has made the social media and other community engagement initiatives successful.

"I feel truly blessed to be a part of something that has allowed so many to connect with our officers, our community, and our Department's unique values," said Sergeant Ariel Soltura. "These successes could not have been accomplished if the men and women who serve were not what we've marketed them to be," said Lt. Slater. "Our aspiration is to change the perception of citizens, and to let them know we [the Police Department] are part of the community, not oppressors of it."

Interested in how you can police with the Department? Follow Rosenberg PD on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube to learn more!



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Business Assistance Grant Program Now Available City-Wide

Rosenberg City Council recently revamped the Business Assistance Grant Program and expanded its reach so that more businesses are eligible to participate. The program began in 2011, and was originally designed to encourage improvements to enhance properties along Avenue H (US 90A) through matching reimbursement grants.

Although the program had several successful projects early on, of the \$100,000 that was originally allocated, only a relatively small portion of funds had been awarded after over two years. Consequently, City Council has revisited the program, and decided to broaden its reach and impact so that more areas and businesses can apply for project funding.

The Business Assistance Grant Program (BAGP) will allow applicants to apply for 50% matching reimbursements for projects that improve facades, signs, or property, up to a maximum reimbursement grant of \$10,000. Any new or existing business within the Rosenberg City Limits is eligible to apply for funding, with the exception of business facilities also serving as a residence; business facilities and/or properties which have outstanding financial obligations to the City of Rosenberg; and/or business facilities and/or property owners which have an ongoing lawsuit or are in anyway party to litigation against the City.

Eligible projects include:

- Improvements to storefronts, including, but not limited to, items such as painting, reconstruction, and remodeling
- New signs, and renovation or removal of existing signs
- Items such as landscaping (if irrigated and maintained or under warranty for one year), lighting, sidewalk and driveway improvements, parking lot improvements
- Demolition of abandoned signs and structures

Eligible projects may be awarded a matching grant with a maximum award of \$10,000. Grant applications are required, and will be reviewed by the Business Assistance Grant Review Committee which is comprised of five members - one representative each from the Rosenberg City Council, the Rosenberg Image Committee, the Rosenberg Development Corporation, the West Fort Bend Management District, and the Rosenberg Planning Commission.

A full set of information, including detailed guidelines and criteria and the application, is available at www.CityofRosenberg.com/bagp. Questions about the program may be directed to bagp@ci.rosenberg.tx.us, or Economic Development at (832) 595-3330.

Representatives from the City of Rosenberg Avenue H Business Assistance Grant Committee presented the first check for a completed project to the Shamrock gas station at 4508 Avenue H on Friday, November 4, 2011. The \$2,500 grant was awarded to Mr. Aziz Dharani and Mr. Amirali Dharani, owners of the store, and was a match for the owners' \$6,495 project, which included the installation and painting of new siding.

Pictured at the award presentation in 2011, were: Janie Warstler, Juan Salazar, Aziz Dharani, Matt Fielder, Amirali Dharani, Jeff Trinker, Nancy Talasek, and Rachel Steele.



Hurricane Season Officially Begins in June - Are You Ready?



Hurricane season for the Atlantic Ocean lasts from June to November with the peak season being mid-August to late October. Do you know what you need to prepare yourself and your family should a hurricane strike this year?

According to FEMA's **Ready.gov** website, before a hurricane, you should do the following:

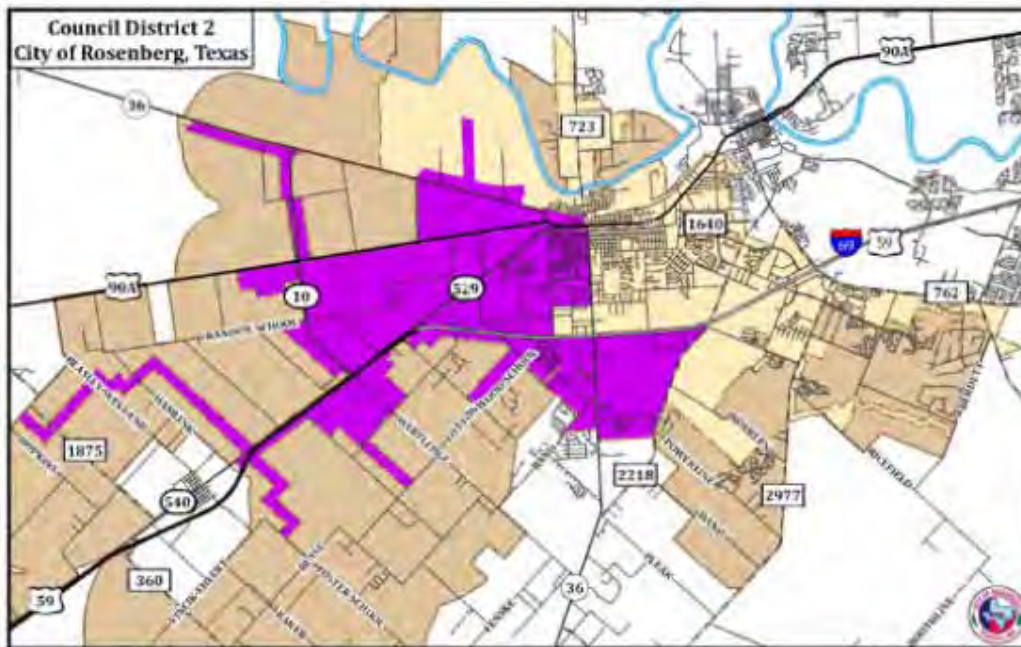
- To begin preparing, you should build an emergency kit and make a family communications plan.
- Know your surroundings.
- Learn the elevation level of your property and whether the land is flood-prone. This will help you know how your property will be affected when storm surge or tidal flooding are forecasted.
- Identify levees and dams in your area and determine whether they pose a hazard to you.
- Learn community hurricane evacuation routes and how to find higher ground. Determine where you would go and how you would get there if you needed to evacuate.
- Make plans to secure your property:
 - Cover all of your home's windows. Permanent storm shutters offer the best protection for windows. A second option is to board up windows with 5/8" exterior grade or marine plywood, cut to fit and ready to install. Another year-round option would be installation of laminated glass with impact-resistant glazing. Tape does not prevent windows from breaking.
 - Install straps or additional clips to securely fasten your roof to the frame structure. This will reduce roof damage.
- Be sure trees and shrubs around your home are well trimmed so they are more wind resistant.
- Clear loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts.
- Reinforce your garage doors; if wind enters a garage it can cause dangerous and expensive structural damage.
- Plan to bring in all outdoor furniture, decorations, garbage cans and anything else that is not tied down.
- Determine how and where to secure your boat.
- Install a generator for emergencies.
- If in a high-rise building, when high winds are present, be prepared to take shelter on a lower floor because wind conditions increase with height, and in a small interior room without windows. When flooding may be occurring, be prepared to take shelter on a floor safely above the flooding and wave effects.
- Consider building a safe room.

Source: www.ready.gov/hurricanes

*City facilities will be closed
Monday, May 26, for Memorial Day.*



District 2 Focus



Rosenberg District 2 is represented by Councilor Susan Euton. It encompasses a large portion of our City's undeveloped tracts of land, including the "triple fork" area (land between SH36, US90A and Spur 529), which is expected to become a center for employment, manufacturing, and distribution in the future due to the availability of large tracts of land, and their proximity to key logistic routes and resources such as rail and interstate highways. Recently, ALDI broke ground on a 650,000 square foot distribution facility along US90A, just west of Rude Road. There are many ongoing projects which will affect residents and businesses alike in District 2, some of which are outlined below.

Water and Sanitary Sewer Infrastructure Improvements

City Council recently approved a comprehensive sanitary sewer improvement project that will upgrade key infrastructure for the portions of the City served by Wastewater Treatment Plant #1 (which includes a portion of District 2). Planned improvements include upgrades to protect the health, safety and welfare of citizens through reduction in system inflow and infiltration. Because of the scope of the overall project, work will be designed, bid, funded, and completed in phases, and will include improvements to the collection system (lines), rehabilitation and replacement of lift stations, and conversion of effluent disinfection at WWTP #1.

Livable Centers Study

The City and the Rosenberg Development Corporation have partnered with the West Fort Bend Management District and the Houston-Galveston Area Council to complete a *Livable Centers* study on two major corridors running through District 2 - Avenue H (US 90A) and Avenue I (FM 1640). The study will assess the two corridors from Bamore Road to Lane Drive identifying potential future projects to revitalize the corridors.

Eagle Scout Projects - Seabourne Creek Nature Park

The City's largest park, Seabourne Creek Park, is located in District 2. The City has partnered with the Coastal Prairie Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists, and local Boy Scout troops to complete many park enhancement projects, in both Seabourne Creek Nature Park, and in other parks throughout the City. Recently, Eagle Scout candidates from several different troops, completed their Eagle Scout projects in SCNP including: building a planting table to support prairie restoration projects; installing wooden bulkheads to save trees collapsing into the lake; installing shelves in a tool shed; installing park benches; planting native aquatic plants along the lake shoreline; and creating a bluebird trail by building and installing nest boxes and an interpretive trail sign in the park.

Bamore Road Improvement Project

Phase III of the Bamore Road Improvement Project is currently underway. The project is a multi-phase widening project to convert the existing two-lane asphalt roadway with open drainage ditches from north of Southgate to south of Avenue K to a concrete roadway consisting of three-lanes of concrete curb and gutter with improved drainage and sidewalks along the east side. The intersections at Damascus, Walger, Dallas, Dyer, Avenue M, and Avenue L are being reconstructed as part of the project. The project is scheduled for completion this summer.

TxDOT Road Projects

The Texas Department of Transportation is planning on undertaking several large projects which affect District 2 including the Interstate 69 upgrade construction project; planned improvements to SH 36 from I69 to FM 2218; planned improvements to FM 2218 from I69 to SH 36; and the expansion of Spur 10 to connect to SH 36 south of Rosenberg.

Image Committee

May BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS

Landscape

Car Country
909 Mulcahy Street
**Richard & Alejandra
Gonzales**
1021 Bernard Avenue

Sammie Weaver
2356 Live Oak Drive

**Zip In and Zip Out
Exxon Gas Station**
1804 Avenue H



National Public Works Week May 18 - 24 "Building for Today, Planning for Tomorrow..."

National Public Works Week will be recognized in the City of Rosenberg May 18 - May 24.

Public Works contribute to citizens' daily lives by planning, building, managing and operating the infrastructure that keeps communities running - systems such as water, wastewater, streets and drainage.

This year's theme is "Building for Today, Planning for Tomorrow..." and represents the classic idea of stewardship embodied by the profession of public works to build the quality of life for today while planning for sustainable practices that ensure the quality of life for future generations.

Remember as you go about your daily life this May, that Public Works helps make it possible!

**Source: American Public
Works Association**

Rosenberg INSIDER
May / June 2014

**FY2013 Comprehensive
Annual Financial
Report (CAFR)
Available for Review**

Patillo, Brown and Hill, the firm that completed the City's independent audit, presented the City's FY2013 CAFR to City Council in March, and submitted an unmodified opinion related thereto, assuring the financial statements were free of material misstatement based upon their examination.

The document, according to the firm, also shows the City's financial strength and commitment to conservative budgetary principles.

City CAFRs are available for review at:
CityofRosenberg.com/CAFRs.



Building Safety Month

Founded by the International Code Council (ICC), Building Safety Month (BSM) is celebrated by jurisdictions worldwide during the month of May.

Building Safety Month is a public awareness campaign offered each year to help individuals, families and businesses understand what it takes to create and sustain safe and sustainable structures. The campaign reinforces the need for adoption of modern, model building codes, a strong and efficient system of code enforcement and a well-trained, professional workforce to maintain the system.

*Source: International
Code Council*

Rosenberg INSIDER
May / June 2014

Mosquito Season in Here - FIGHT THE BITE!



As summer approaches, it's time again to remind everyone of steps that individuals can take to reduce the risk of exposure to mosquitoes and West Nile Virus.

Once mosquito season begins, the City of Rosenberg will spray regularly for mosquitos. It is important to remember that spraying done by the City is an attempt to control the mosquito population, but it is impossible to eradicate mosquitoes.

Residents should not rely solely on mosquito spraying to eliminate the pests. Spray may not reach backyard areas because of fences, homes, and other barriers, and it takes everyone doing their part in their own neighborhoods to keep the pests to a minimum.

Residents can take responsibility in and around their own home by following the 4 D's:

- **DRAIN** standing water in your yard and neighborhood such as empty flowerpots, clogged rain gutters, non-aerated ponds, broken hot tubs or fountains, and puddles from over watering. Mosquitoes love to breed in stagnant water.
- **DUSK/DAWN** is when infected mosquitoes are most active. Try your best to stay indoors at these times of day.
- **DRESS** in long sleeves and pants when you're outside and mosquitoes are active. For extra protection, spray thin clothing with repellent.
- **DEET** (n, n-diethyl-m-toluamide) is an ingredient to look for in your insect repellent. Follow label instructions, and always wear repellent when outdoors. Consider using sprays made for yards and other outdoor areas.

Visit cdc.gov for additional information on the prevention of the West Nile Virus. For information regarding the City's program, contact Citizen Relations at (832) 595-3301.

Comprehensive Plan Update in store for Rosenberg

The City of Rosenberg has budgeted to update its Comprehensive Plan. The Plan was last updated in 1995. Since that time, the City's population has grown by over 50 percent from 23,000 to approximately 35,000.

Rosenberg's rate of growth has increased recently with 840 new single- and multi-family housing units started in the City and its Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) in 2013. That is the equivalent of approximately six (6) percent of Rosenberg's current population being added in only one (1) year. This trend is expected to continue, if not increase, given the forthcoming widening of I-69 to Spur 10 and the build-out of neighboring communities to the immediate north of Rosenberg.

At the current rate of growth, Rosenberg would double in population in the next thirty (30) years. That said, it is imperative for the City to plan for its future and seek public input to determine what development standards and infrastructure improvements are needed to accommodate future growth.

This much-needed update to the City's comprehensive plan will assess existing conditions related to demographics, transportation, land use, and design; project future growth and development; determine the desired characteristics of future growth, development, and redevelopment based on community input; and make recommendations for implementing the plan (e.g., development standards, infrastructure improvements). A consulting firm will be selected to assist the City with completing the project.

Key to this process will be gathering public input on the vision for Rosenberg's future and strategies to achieve the vision. To accomplish this, several methods will be used. The City's approach to the project will include a community workshop, public hearings, the use of an advisory committee, and online engagement tools to reach more members of the public.

Keep an ear out for more information in the coming months on how to be engaged in the planning process - its ultimate success depends on you!



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ALDI Breaks Ground on Rosenberg Distribution Center and Divisional Headquarters

Representatives from the City of Rosenberg and the Rosenberg Development Corporation joined members of ALDI's corporate team Thursday, May 1, to officially break ground on the company's 650,000 square foot distribution and divisional headquarters facility located on US90A in Rosenberg. When complete, the project is expected to create over 150 jobs, and more than \$60 million in capital investment.

On hand for the ceremony were City and County representatives, along with ALDI staff, and members of the media. After remarks made by Rosenberg Mayor Vincent M. Morales, Jr., and Fort Bend County Precinct 1 Commissioner Richard Morrison, Karla Waddleton, Division Vice President for ALDI, spoke enthusiastically about the company's excitement to be in Rosenberg, and about their rapid expansion throughout the Houston region. Waddleton commented that although ALDI went through an exhaustive search to find the home for their newest divisional headquarters, throughout the two year process, Rosenberg stood out above the other 30 contenders. Later in the morning, ALDI had a ribbon-cutting ceremony at their new Rosenberg retail store located on Reading Road.

Clockwise from right:

1. Mayor Morales addresses the crowd.

2. Jack Belt, Greater Fort Bend EDC; Allen Scopel, RDC; Councilor Dwayne Grigar, City of Rosenberg; City Manager Robert Gracia; Karla Waddleton, ALDI; Mayor Morales; Jeff Wiley, Greater Fort Bend EDC; Councilor Jimmie Peña, City of Rosenberg; and Commissioner Morrison turn dirt for the project.

3. Hard hats and shovels await event dignitaries.



Photo credit: BAC Photography and Design

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the City of Rosenberg.

CityofRosenberg.com

Rosenberg INSIDER



June / July 2014

Family 4th Independence Day Celebration

The City of Rosenberg is proud to announce the 15th Annual
Family 4th Celebration to be held
Friday, July 4, 2014, at 6 p.m. in beautiful
Seabourne Creek Nature Park (3831 Highway 36 South).

From the moment you enter the park, you'll
know that a great evening awaits you!

Members of the local Veterans of Foreign Wars will be on hand
to pass out individual flags to revelers. This year's ***Family 4th***
will include live musical entertainment by the Level One Band,
concessions from a diverse array of food and beverage vendors,
and a children's carnival area. The event will also include the
ever-popular complimentary horse-drawn wagon rides through
Seabourne Creek Nature Park. Guides from the Coastal Prairie
Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists will accompany riders to give
an overview of the Park's ecosystems, wildlife, and attractions.

Once darkness falls, the evening will culminate with a magnificent
fireworks display set to patriotic music. This year's show promises to
be bigger and better than ever before – you don't want to miss it!

Attendees are encouraged to bring their lawn chairs or
blankets, and family and friends, but are reminded to
leave their pets, alcohol and tobacco at home, as these
items are prohibited in City of Rosenberg parks.

General event parking will be available in the grass lot immediately
south of the event entrance (weather-permitting), and at the
Fort Bend County Fairgrounds. The event will be held rain
or shine, so be sure to bring your rain gear just in case!

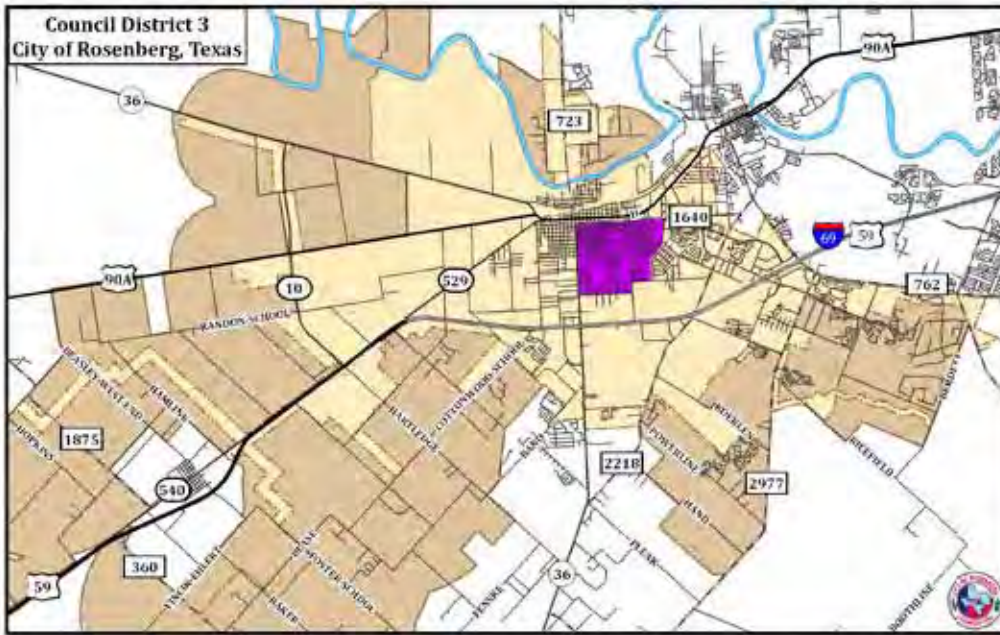
In preparation for the event, Seabourne Creek Nature
Park will be closed to the public from approximately
Tuesday, July 1, through Monday, July 7.

Visit ***CityofRosenberg.com/Family4th***, or call (832)
595-3520 for general event information.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
Family 4th Celebration
Friday, July 4 6 p.m. – 10 p.m.
Seabourne Creek Nature Park

District 3 Focus



Rosenberg District 3 is represented by Councilor Dwayne Grigar. It comprises a large portion of Rosenberg's interior, along with many older neighborhoods. There are many ongoing projects which will affect residents and businesses alike in District 3, a few of which are outlined below.

Sanitary Sewer Infrastructure Improvements

City Council recently approved a comprehensive sanitary sewer improvement project that will upgrade key infrastructure for the portions of the City served by Wastewater Treatment Plant #1 (including a portion of District 3). Planned improvements include upgrades to protect the health, safety and welfare of citizens through reduction in system inflow and infiltration. Because of the scope of the overall project, work will be designed, bid, funded, and completed in phases, and will include improvements to the collection system (lines), rehabilitation and replacement of lift stations, and conversion of effluent disinfection at WWTP #1.

Flood Insurance Rate Maps & Dry Creek Drainage Improvements

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recently updated and reissued the Flood Insurance Rate Maps for Fort Bend County and all incorporated areas. The new maps incorporate modified Brazos River flows and improved terrain mapping, resulting in an increase in the base flood elevations. Within the City of Rosenberg, the new maps resulted in the removal of a large portion of Cambridge Village from the floodplain.

The City has worked diligently over the last several years to make improvements to the Dry Creek Watershed, and recently issued the remaining bonds from the 2007 bond election to continue improvements to drainage along Dry Creek. By leveraging these bonds through partnership with the Fort Bend Drainage District, the City has been able to complete a much greater portion of the work identified in a detailed drainage study than if the City were to have to contract the construction work. The most recent bond issuance will be utilized to enlarge the drainage structure under Louise Street and to build a control structure for the regional detention facility off of Ricefield Road. Fort Bend County Drainage District has constructed a large number of the drainage improvements along Dry Creek to-date, and the City has made fill dirt available for purchase to interested parties in order to further hasten the excavation of the detention facility.

Travis Park Improvements



Thanks to funding provided by the Rosenberg Development Corporation (RDC), Travis Park has recently undergone a “face-lift” of sorts. Six (6) large Live Oak trees have been planted, a new scoreboard installed for the softball field, a quarter-mile extension added to the crushed granite walking trail, and the park sign and basketball court lines freshly-painted. Additionally, the Parks Department is currently working to build small berms around the new walking trail extension. The new walking trail extension, trees and berms, fill the greenspace created when the pools were demolished.

With the completed improvements, Travis Park will have a half-mile of trail within the bounds of the park, much of which is shaded.

Image Committee

June BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS

Landscape

**Melissa Hinson
& Marty Gray**
1400 Georgina Street

**Misael & Adelfa
Garza**
1614 6th Street

Wayne & Katherine Coleman
922 Gulf Court

**Jesus & Elizabeth
Torres**
509 Reinhard Street

Billy & Haydee Ruiz
1006 San Antonio Court



Special Election Results May 10, 2014

At the May 20 City Council Meeting, Rosenberg City Council canvassed the May 10, 2014 Special Election and declared the official results. Ordinance 2014-23 was adopted by City Council, officially declaring the results as follows:

Proposition 1

FOR: 992
AGAINST: 408

Proposition 2:

FOR: 996
AGAINST: 408

After officially canvassing the results, City Council adopted Ordinance 2014-24, and Resolution R-1792, as called for by the adopted propositions.

For more election details, visit:
CityofRosenberg.com/Elections,
or contact the City Secretary's
Office at (832) 595-3340.

Rosenberg INSIDER
June / July 2014

2013 Drinking Water Quality Report

The City of Rosenberg has released its 2013 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report).

The City of Rosenberg water system's drinking water meets or exceeds all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) drinking water requirements.

The report is a summary of the quality of the water provided to customers. **A copy of the report is included with this month's utility bill.**

The 2013 Report is also available online at CityofRosenberg.com/Water.

Should you have any questions related to the report, please contact the City of Rosenberg Utilities Department at (832) 595-3582.



Interstate 69 (I69) Construction

The City of Rosenberg has received notification that TxDOT work on the Interstate 69 (I69) reconstruction project will necessitate alternate lane closures from Kroesche Road to Reading Road from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily.

Additionally, work on the I69 project has also necessitated the closure of portions of the frontage road near Bamore Road through July 10. Detour signage is in place.

Drivers are asked to exercise caution in the construction areas, and to plan additional travel time accordingly.

For general closure information, visit TxDOT's live traffic and construction map at <http://houstantranstar.org>. For questions regarding project or closure specifics, contact TxDOT at (713) 802-5076.

Rosenberg INSIDER
June / July 2014



Sign Up Now for Business Assistance Grants!

The City of Rosenberg Business Assistance Grant Review Committee recently awarded nearly \$35,000 in matching reimbursement grants through the City's newly-revamped Business Assistance Grant Program (BAGP). The first round of awardees represented a wide variety of Rosenberg businesses, including industrial, retail, tourism, and service-based companies. The \$35,000 in BAGP funds will be leveraged with private dollars to complete approximately \$100,000 worth of improvements to businesses throughout the community.

The BAGP was created by City Council in order to enhance the economic vitality of the City by encouraging visually appealing physical improvements to local business establishments. Grant applications are considered monthly, and are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. **Businesses interested in applying for funding are encouraged to submit applications ASAP for consideration!**

For complete program information, visit www.CityofRosenberg.com/BAGP, or contact Economic Development at bagg@ci.rosenberg.tx.us, or (832) 595-3330.

Disc Golf Course Now Open at Brazos Park!

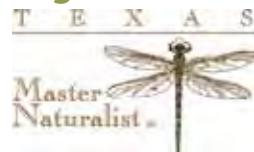


Rosenberg Councilors celebrated with Parks Board, RDC, and members of a local disc golf club, as they cut the ribbon officially opening the new disc golf course at Brazos Park, 320 Houston Street, on Thursday, May 22. The course consists of nine par-three holes, encompassing 2,107 feet of "greenway" along the exterior areas of the park.



Pictured at the ribbon-cutting are (left to right): Melissa Dixon, Parks Board; Councilor Cynthia McConathy; Mayor Vincent M. Morales, Jr.; Cameron Kambhu, student; Terry Kambhu, student; Councilor Amanda Bolf; Councilor Dwayne Grigar; and Ray Kueck, Parks Board.

Register Now for Texas Master Naturalist Training Course



The Texas Master Naturalist Program, Coastal Prairie Chapter, is now taking applications for the Fall 2014 training program. The Chapter provides key volunteer assistance at Seabourne Creek Nature Park in Rosenberg. Classes and field work provide training in natural history, wildlife, and the ecosystems of the area.

The Texas Master Naturalist Program is a volunteer training program sponsored by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and AgriLife Extension. Its goal is to help improve volunteers' understanding of natural resources and related management activities, enabling them to earn Master Naturalist certification.

Master Naturalists volunteer in their communities, providing natural resource education, and participating in community service and outreach projects. Volunteers are trained to help ensure that people will be able to enjoy the natural Texas for years to come. A wide variety of topics are covered including bird study, botany, ecology, weather/climate, mammals, and soil science among others.

Classes start Saturday, August 23, 2014, and will be held at various locations in Fort Bend and Waller Counties through early November. There are twelve classes, six of which will be held on Saturdays, and the remainder will be held on Tuesday evenings. Tuition is \$150 and class size is limited. Applications are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

To download an application and view the complete training schedule please visit: <http://txmn.org/coastal/about-our-chapter/tmn-training-information/>. For more information call 832-922-0524 or visit <http://txmn.org/coastal/>.

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Livable Centers Study to Focus on Redevelopment Opportunities along Avenue H and Avenue I Corridors

The City of Rosenberg, in conjunction with the West Fort Bend Management District (WFBMD), has been granted Livable Centers Study funds by the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) for implementation of a Livable Centers Program. The Livable Centers Initiative is a program that awards planning grants on a competitive basis to local governments and nonprofit organizations to prepare and implement plans for the enhancement of existing centers and corridors consistent with the regional development policies.

The program will identify improvements, policies, and programs - including specific investments in transportation infrastructure - that will help revitalize the US 90A (Avenue H) and FM 1640 (Avenue I) corridors between Bamore Road and Lane Drive. The process will include place making, development of innovative solutions for land use, development patterns, redevelopment strategies, housing, transportation connectivity, economic assessment, and community outreach.

The goals of the study are as follows:

- Encourage and support innovative redevelopment projects on under utilized properties in the corridors;
- Improve the mobility and safety of pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and transit users;
- Provide greater housing options; and
- Protect and promote existing cultural and environmental assets that contribute to the area's unique identity.

The study is expected to take approximately 6 to 9 months once the consultant has been selected. H-GAC is in the process of conducting a formal Request for Proposal (RFP) to choose a consultant to manage the Livable Centers Study. A Proposal Evaluation Team, which will include representatives from H-GAC, West Fort Bend Management District, City of Rosenberg, Rosenberg Development Corporation, Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), and other stakeholders, will review responses received by the designated closing date of June 5, 2014.

For more information on H-GAC's Livable Centers Program, visit: www.h-gac.com/community/livablecenters/.



Park Improvements Provide Enhanced Opportunities for Summer Fun!

July has been officially proclaimed "Parks and Recreation Month" in the City of Rosenberg. Parks are vital to our community's quality of life, to ensuring the health of citizens, and to building healthy, active communities and economic prosperity.

In honor of Parks and Recreation month, a few recent Rosenberg Park improvements are included below, none of which were possible without the support of community partners such as the Rosenberg Development Corporation, the Coastal Prairie Chapter of Texas Master Naturalists, various Boy Scout troops and Eagle Scout candidates, and the Rosenberg Parks Board.

This summer, take the opportunity to spend a little time enjoying the great outdoors right in your own back yard - check out a Rosenberg park!



**Garcia Park
Basketball Court
Improvements**

**Brazos Park Disc Golf
Course Opening**



**Sunset Park
Tennis Court
Improvements**



**Seabourne Creek Nature Park
Bluebird Conservation
Eagle Scout Project**

**Brazos Park Bench
Restoration
Eagle Scout Project**



Travis Park Trail Additions

Visit www.CityofRosenberg.com/Parks, or call (832) 595-3520 for more information on City of Rosenberg Parks or Recreation Programming.



Pictured after the proclamation presentation at the July 1, 2014 City Council Meeting are (L to R): Mayor Vincent M. Morales, Jr.; George Zepeda, Parks Board; Darren McCarthy, Parks Director; Paul Rodgers, Parks Supervisor; Melissa Dixon, Parks Board; Lydia Acosta, Recreation Program Coordinator; and Councilor Amanda Bolf.

Some photos courtesy Coastal Prairie Chapter Texas Master Naturalists.



Dog Owners Reminded that Heat Kills!

Rosenberg Animal Control reminds pet owners that leaving an animal in a parked vehicle, even for just a few minutes, can cause severe injury or death.

During warm weather, a dog's interests are best served by staying home. It is too hot to leave your dog in the car, no matter how short the period of time may be. After just 10 minutes in temperatures of 90 degrees, a vehicle is turned into an oven, and temperatures inside can soar to upwards of 109 degrees. Parking in the shade and/or leaving windows down is not enough to prevent this.

The number one cause of heatstroke in dogs is being left in a vehicle. When excessive heat is combined with dogs' inability to sweat, heatstroke can set in abruptly, including an increased heart rate, labored breathing, weakness, collapse, purplish gum color, seizures, and even coma. Even with aggressive therapy, many dogs who suffer heatstroke succumb to organ damage and death.

Violators in the City of Rosenberg can and will be ticketed. Don't take your dogs with you around town this summer. Leave them at home.



Phase III Bamore Road Improvement Project Complete!



City officials joined members of the Bamore Road Improvements Phase III project team on Tuesday, July 1, to officially open the latest improved segment of Bamore Road.

The Bamore Road Improvement Project is a multi-phase widening project to convert the existing two-lane asphalt roadway with open drainage ditches to a new concrete roadway consisting of three-lanes of concrete curb and gutter with improved drainage. Accessible sidewalks and curb ramps along the residential (east) side from US 59 to Avenue I. The section of Bamore Road from Avenue I to Spur 529 will be an asphalt reconstruction with waterline improvements only.

Phase III of the project was funded partially by Fort Bend County Mobility Bond funds and spanned from Southgate to Avenue K. The project eliminated open roadside drainage ditches, replaced aging water lines and infrastructure, and included additional drainage improvements to Seabourne Creek, as well as the reconstruction of intersections at Damascus, Walger, Dallas, Dyer, Avenue M, and Avenue L.

The City's contractor on the job was Gonzalez Construction of Rosenberg, and the design engineer was IDC, Inc., of Houston. Work began in June 2013 and the project reached substantial completion a month ahead of time, in June 2014, opening to traffic June 10.

Total estimated project cost, including engineering, is approximately \$2.4 million. Construction on the final phase of the project, Phase IV, is included as a Fiscal Year 2015 Capital Improvement Project (CIP), and is expected to go to City Council for bid award in August.

Pictured left to right are: *Councilor William Benton; Councilor Dwayne Grigar; Councilor Amanda Bolf; John Maresh, Assistant City Manager for Public Services; Councilor Cynthia McConathy; Javier Gonzalez, Gonzalez Construction; Mayor Vincent M. Morales, Jr.; Pete Cavazos, Gonzales Construction; Maria Gonzalez, Gonzalez Construction; Larry Janak, IDC; Melissa Peña, Project Director; Steven Yu, IDC; and Hung Nguyen, IDC.*

Image Committee

July BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS

Landscape

**Mr. & Mrs. Les
Krancher**
1703 Avenue R

Patricia McConnell
3102 Longhorn Drive

Fred Zoch III
4209 Junker Street

Renovation

**Robert & Bernice
Anzaldua**
1501 George Street



Meeting Videos now Available **LIVE** and Archived!

Curious about the inner workings of your local government? Now you can experience Rosenberg City Council meetings first hand, in the comfort of your very own home, at your convenience!

Meetings are now live streamed on the Municipal Channel - Comcast 16, and City website - CityofRosenberg.com/TV.

Meeting videos are also recorded and replayed for the week following the meeting on the Municipal Channel, and are archived in a video library on the website for viewing at any time at CityofRosenberg.com/CouncilVideos.

The video library is indexed with the meeting agenda packet, so one can watch just the items of interest to them, skipping through the meeting as desired.

Rosenberg INSIDER
July / August 2014

Upcoming City Council Meetings Re: FY 2015 Budget



City staff begins preparing the proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year (October through September), in the preceding spring. Many hours are put in to presenting a clear, straightforward, and balanced budget for City Council consideration.

In addition to the minimum State requirements regarding public hearings on proposed tax rates and budgets, numerous opportunities for discussions in open meetings are held throughout the process to solicit feedback from City Council regarding budget priorities, capital projects, etc., and to help keep the public informed.

Below, you will find a list of upcoming City Council meetings at which items directly related to the upcoming FY15 budget will be discussed.

Workshop - July 22 - 6 p.m.
Workshop - July 29 - 6 p.m.
Workshop - August 9 - 8 a.m.
Meeting - August 19 - 7 p.m.
Workshop - August 26 - 6 p.m.
Meeting - September 2 - 7 p.m.

Whether or not you are able to attend in person, you can watch live on cable (Comcast 16), the City's website at www.CityofRosenberg.com/TV, or you can review the particular items of interest to you, along with the associated discussion and Council agenda packet items, at your convenience at www.CityofRosenberg.com/CouncilVideos.

Whatever your preferred method of engagement is, make it a point to get involved and be aware.

For additional information on this year's budget process, visit www.CityofRosenberg.com/BudgetProcess. Check back often, as this page will be updated as the process progresses!

Be Informed!

Rosenberg Recognized for Excellence in Budget Presentation

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) recently announced that the City of Rosenberg has received the organization's award for Distinguished Budget Presentation for its Fiscal Year 2014 Budget. This marks the 22nd year in a row the City has received the award.

This award is presented by the GFOA and recognizes excellence in local government financial management and commitment to meeting "the highest principles of governmental budgeting." In order to receive the award, entities must satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation designed to assess how well the budget serves as: a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide, and a communications device.



The City of Rosenberg has also been recognized by GFOA for 26 consecutive years with a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports (CAFRs).

"We are honored to have earned the GFOA's award for Budget presentation," stated Executive Director of Administrative Services and Finance Director Joyce Vasut. "It is a testament to Rosenberg's commitment to excellence in financial management and reporting, and to the Finance Department staff's pride in providing information that improves transparency in municipal governance."

Copies of key financial documentation, including budgets and CAFRs, can be found at www.CityofRosenberg.com/Transparency.

Pictured are Accounting Supervisor, Luis Garza; Executive Director of Administrative Services and Finance Director, Joyce Vasut; and Budget Analyst, Maritza Salazar.

City Launches Financial Transparency Page Designed to Encourage Greater Awareness of City Finances

The City has launched a new webpage designed to improve financial transparency for individuals interested in City of Rosenberg finances and fiscal management. The page was developed under general Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts guidelines and best practices to provide access to key pieces of information in an easy to access and analyze format. The City hopes the site will encourage and improve transparency and access to local government financial data by citizens.



The City will be submitting an application to the Texas Comptroller's Leadership Circle award program which aims to "spotlight local governments that are opening their books to the public; providing clear, consistent pictures of spending; and sharing information in a user-friendly format." For more information on this program, and additional local government transparency information, resources, and data, visit the Comptroller's site at: www.TexasTransparency.org.

The site will be a work in progress, and will be improved and upgraded as new information becomes available. Examples of some of the resources available are: archived City budgets and Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports (CAFRs); expenditure detail; overview and detailed debt charts; City Bond Election pledge; information regarding how to file a public information request; and current tax rates.

Visit the City's page at www.CityofRosenberg.com/Transparency, or select the *Financial Transparency* icon from the right side of the homepage (pictured above).

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City Submits Application to become a Main Street Program Community

The City of Rosenberg has submitted an application to the Texas Historical Commission to become a Texas Main Street City. The Texas Main Street program's mission is to provide technical expertise, resources, and support for the preservation and revitalization of historic downtowns and commercial districts to cities in the program. Reflecting the traditional downtown boundaries and the newly established cultural district boundaries, the proposed Main Street program area is generally defined as being bound by 1st Street, 6th Street, Avenue F and Avenue I.

The City's application to join the Main Street program will be reviewed this fall. If selected, Rosenberg would officially join the 84 existing Main Street communities on January 1, 2015, and would employ a full time Main Street manager to oversee the program and implement the goals established by the City and area stakeholders in accordance with the Main Street program focus on four core areas - organization, promotion, design, and economic restructuring.

The organizational component of the Four Point Plan encourages Main Street managers to identify and develop strategic partnerships that are essential for successful preservation-based downtown revitalization. The Main Street program does not work in a vacuum. Successful programs coordinate with other Main Street managers, area stakeholders, support organizations, and the business community to articulate a shared vision, work collaboratively to integrate the vision, and plan to achieve desired goals in the larger community.

The Main Street manager becomes an advocate for the downtown business district, works to market a cohesive image that reflects downtown's character, promotes the goods, activities, and services of the program area, and works to identify strengths and areas of differentiation between Rosenberg and other downtowns. The Main Street Manager develops an integrated message that can be consistently communicated to draw visitors, businesses, and investment to the district.

Rosenberg is fortunate to have an existing inventory of buildings with great historic character, which can be capitalized on through the design element and support provided through the Main Street program. Capitalizing on existing assets, the program can connect building owners committed to rehabilitation and restoration efforts with design experts skilled in the utilization of preservation-based tools and practices, to help create a vibrant district that maintains its historic authenticity, giving building owners the information and tools necessary to make thoughtful decisions.

The program focuses on economic restructuring by developing a targeted strategy to identify new market opportunities, diversify business offerings, find new uses for historic commercial buildings, and stimulate investment in property in the program area. Generating redevelopment not only improves the district, but could serve as an impetus for redevelopment of adjacent corridors and areas.



Photo credit: BAC Photography & Design

Rosenberg Dedicates Fire Station No. 3

According to former Rosenberg Fire Chief Kathy Hutchens, "Fire Station No. 3 is a facility of which the Rosenberg community can be proud." That was quite evident Saturday, July 26, when current and former firefighters, City officials, families and kids all gathered on-site to celebrate the opening of Rosenberg's newest station. The official opening included a dedication and hose uncoupling, pushing Engine 3 into its bay, station tours and refreshments.

Fire Station No. 3 is located south of Reading Road, just off of FM 2977 on August Green Drive. The City broke ground on the new station in December 2012, and the project reached substantial completion in April of this year. It may have taken a little longer than anticipated, but it was well worth it. The project allows the City to better serve the community by constructing a third station and locating the associated equipment and crews in a rapidly developing area.

The total approximate cost for the station is \$2.75 million. Construction project team members include project architect, BRW; and project contractor, LDF Construction. The site was constructed to exceed building standards to withstand hurricane force winds and storms in order to help ensure operations during weather-related public safety emergencies. It includes an approximately 8,000 square-foot facility with dual apparatus bays, sleeping quarters and associated space for six, an exercise room and full kitchen for three shifts, as well as a rainwater harvesting system to handle site irrigation needs.

Rosenberg Fire Station No. 3 Then (groundbreaking) and Now (dedication)!



*Municipal Facilities (non-emergency) will be closed
Monday, September 1, for Labor Day, and
Friday, September 26 for
Fort Bend County Fair Day.*

Fire Station No. 3 Dedication Continued



Pictured clockwise from left are:

1. Former Rosenberg firefighters Bill Crippen, Benny Wleczyk, Floyd Engel, and Pete Pavlovsky visit in the entrance to Station 3.
2. Chief Goates and Sparky inspect the hoseline.
3. RFD "pushes" Engine 3 into its new home.
4. Fire Marshal Justin Jurek visits with son, Jackston, on back of Engine 3 at the event.



FY2015 Proposed Budget and Overview Presentations Now Available Online

The City has made a copy of the FY2015 Proposed Budget, along with staff powerpoint presentations outlining the highlights and giving an overview of the proposed budget, publically available for review and study on the City's website at www.CityofRosenberg.com/BudgetProcess. These documents are provided in addition to videos from City Council meetings that is also available at www.CityofRosenberg.com/CouncilVideos.

Citizens are encouraged to review the documents presented, and participate in the forthcoming budget review and approval process as opportunities allow. Future meeting dates are also available at the aforementioned site, along with links to the City's newly-launched financial transparency page, www.CityofRosenberg.com/Transparency.

Image Committee

August BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS

Landscape

**Walter & Valerie
Hawkins**

506 Summer Mist Lane

**John & Terrie
Thomas**

1311 Parker Bluff Lane

**Mike & Bobann
Weatherly**

5518 Walnut Glen Lane

Renovation

**Jaime & Rebecca
Rubio**

1508 Ward Street

City Council

[www.cityofrosenberg.com/
CityCouncil](http://www.cityofrosenberg.com/CityCouncil)

Vincent M. Morales, Jr.
Mayor

Cynthia McConathy
Mayor Pro Tem
At-Large Position Two

William Benton
At-Large Position One

Jimmie J. Peña
Single Member District 1

Susan Euton
Single Member District 2

Dwayne Grigar
Single Member District 3

Amanda J. Bolf
Single Member District 4

City Management

Robert Gracia
City Manager

John Maresh
Assistant City Manager
Public Services

Rosenberg INSIDER
Aug./ Sept. 2014

**INSIDER
Newsletter**
taking a "vacation"
for rejuvenation!



It will be several months before you see another edition of the INSIDER, the City's newsletter.

The newsletter will be undergoing an overhaul in accordance with the City's strategic goal of improving public confidence, and providing opportunities for engagement.

That does not, however, mean that you can't find out what's going on in the City.

Visit the City website, www.CityofRosenberg.com, to get real time information on events, news, meetings, and capital projects, etc.

Additionally, Citizen Relations is just a call away at (832) 595-3301, and can help ensure you get the information you need!

Whatever your preferred method of engagement is, make it a point to get involved and be aware.

Suggestions and feedback are welcomed regarding the type of information you would like to see - whether it be online, through a newsletter, or over the City's municipal cable channel (Comcast 16, and CityofRosenberg.com/TV).

Let us hear from you - email:
communications@ci.rosenberg.tx.us.

Fireworks Rescheduled to Coincide with Fort Bend County Fair!



A silver lining has emerged around the storm clouds that dampened the City's July 4th festivities and ultimately cancelled the evening's fireworks display. Although the City was not able to reshoot in conjunction with the July 4th holiday, the fireworks show has been rescheduled to coincide with the Fort Bend County Fair and Rodeo!

The fireworks display is scheduled to light up Rosenberg skies on Thursday, September 25, at approximately 8:30 p.m. The fireworks will be launched over Seabourne Creek Nature Park, the same location typically utilized for July 4th shows. The Park, although closed to vehicular traffic, will be open for fireworks show revelers.

For those planning on watching from the Park, parking will be available in the grass lot immediately south of the park entrance on SH

36. In the event of hazardous weather, the fireworks will be cancelled indefinitely for 2014.

While the Park will be open for the event, the gates along Stanley Kucherka Drive and Fountains Drive will be closed from September 24 to September 26 for public safety.

If you're in the Rosenberg area the evening of Thursday, September 25, turn your head to the skies and join us in saluting our great Nation as we help kick off the Fort Bend County Fair and Rodeo with a BANG!

For more information on the fireworks display, visit www.CityofRosenberg.com/Fireworks, or call (832) 595-3520.

For information on the Fort Bend County Fair and Rodeo, visit www.FortBendCountyFair.com, or call (281) 342-6171.

City of Rosenberg Mission:

*To anticipate community needs;
to deliver exceptional service; and
to cultivate an enhanced quality of
life through leadership, innovation,
and cooperative partnerships.*

5-year Strategic Goals:

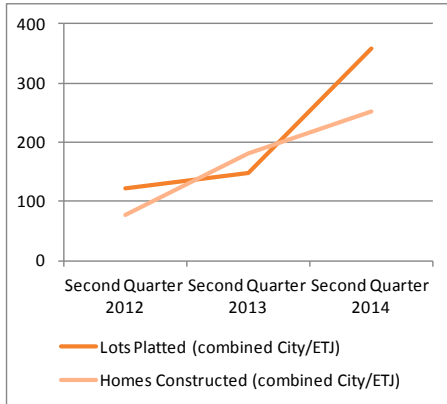
- Manage Growth
- Enhance Quality of Life
- Increase Public Confidence

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Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14) Indicators Positive for Continued Growth of Rosenberg Economy

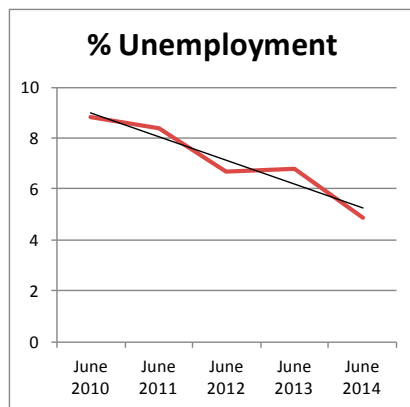


Data from FY14 continues to reflect positive trends in Rosenberg's economic growth. The City's fiscal year runs October 1 through September 30, and at the half-way point (March 31, 2014) indicators including home construction, sales tax, employment, and hotel occupancy tax had all increased.

New home construction in Rosenberg is at historic highs with the count for total home construction for the quarter ending June 30 increasing from 181 in 2013 to 251 in 2014. Of these home starts, approximately one-third were built in the City, and the remaining two-thirds in the City's extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ). Rosenberg also saw an increase in plats for new residential lots in the same period, with in-City plats totaling 270, and another 88 in the ETJ. Platting is the administrative process for subdividing property to be developed and sold, so these numbers represent a certain level of confidence in the continued growth of the Rosenberg area housing market. Thanks to growth in the local housing market and construction industry, the City's Planning Department estimates Rosenberg's

current population to be 35,491 - a 15.9% increase from the 2010 Census count of 30,618.

Total City sales tax allocations through the second quarter of FY14 were 17% higher than they were at the same time last fiscal year. Sales tax revenues are split in the City's budget, with approximately one-half going to the general fund for City operations, one-quarter going toward property tax reduction, and the remaining one-quarter going to economic development projects.

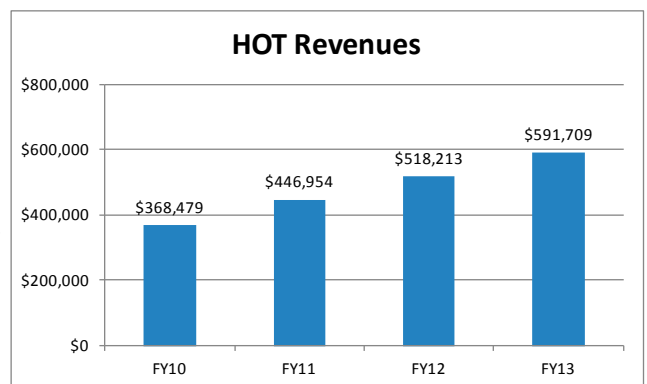
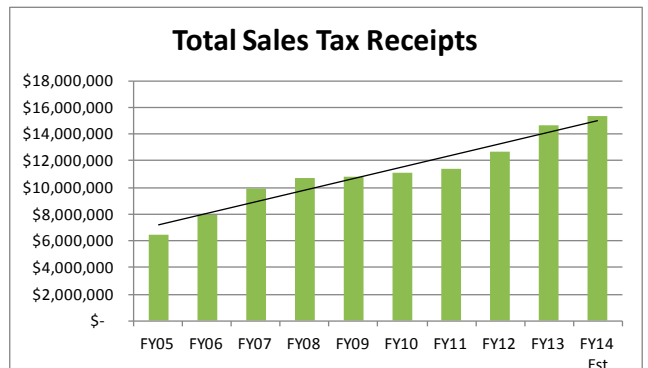


Rosenberg total employment is also on the rise. Total employment has grown by more than 1,000 since 2011. The June 2014 unemployment rate is almost two points lower than a year previous, dropping to 4.9% from 6.8%. Over the same time period, total employment increased from 14,417 to 14,821.

Rosenberg has also seen an increase in overnight visitors this fiscal year, as indicated by the 16% increase in Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) receipts from the previous fiscal year

at the same time. Overall, annual HOT receipts have risen more than 60% from 2010 to 2013, a trend that appears to be continuing. HOT revenues totaled \$271,971 at the end of the second quarter of FY14.

HOT funds are utilized to enhance and promote tourism and the convention and hotel industry in Rosenberg. Overnight guests are great for the local economy as they infuse sales tax dollars into it, without requiring many tax-funded services in return.



City Honors Employees at Annual Awards Banquet "Willie D. McQueen, Jr. Employees of the Year" Named

The City held its 16th annual Employee Awards Luncheon on Wednesday, December 12, 2012, to recognize City employees for their accomplishments over the last year. The awards presentation and luncheon was held at the Rosenberg Civic Center, and included recognition for one day or less of sick leave used, safety programs, and service awards, culminating in the naming of ten (10) employees as "2012 Willie D. McQueen, Jr. Employees of the Year."

The prestigious award, named in honor of Rosenberg Police Sergeant, Willie Daniel McQueen, Jr., after his untimely death in 2005, is designed to recognize employees nominated by their peers for going above and beyond the call of duty in providing services that enrich the City and community. Members of the McQueen family, including his mother, Martha McQueen, sister, Brundretta Lott, wife, Charlexia Winslow with son Donovan, daughter Alexandria McQueen, and mother- and father-in-law, Charles and Hazel Taylor, were honored guests at the luncheon. Willie's daughter, Alexandria, gave a brief introduction and thank you for the recognition in honor of her late father, and presented the awards to the employees.

Employees were recognized for efforts including training and mentoring; construction project oversight and facility management; budget tracking and organization; citizen services during solid waste contract conversion; branding and social media development; oversight of the Police Explorer post; departmental oversight and guidance; providing top quality service to other City departments; superior customer service; diligence and skill in water testing and water quality monitoring; and overseeing involved initiatives such as annexation and the solid waste contract conversion.

Congratulations on a job well done!

Pictured below with City Manager Jack Hamlett are the honored recipients of the 2012 Employee of the Year Award (left to right): **Barbara Smolik** - Fire Department, **Officer Tim Kraus** - Police Department, **Gilbert Flores** - Utilities, **Carolyn Kagy** - Civic Center, **Val Martinez** - Fleet Maintenance, **Karyn Zwahr** - Citizen Relations, **Joyce Vasut** - Finance, **Cyndy Powell** - City Manager's Office, and **Lt. Aaron Slater** - Police Department, with Assistant Police Chief Dallis Warren and Mayor Vincent M. Morales, Jr. Not pictured is **Brittany Tisdale** - Police Department. Alexandria McQueen is in front of the group.



Rosenberg Fire Department Awards

The Rosenberg Fire Department recently held their annual awards banquet. Awards were presented by Chief Wade Goates and Assistant Chief Darrell Himly. Department honorees included:



Certifications Awards (top photo): Jason Kosler, Jason Johns, and Dustin Toll - Intermediate;

Service Awards (middle photo): Bradley Ryder - One Year, Justin White - Five Years, Clint Leopold - Ten Years;

Service Awards (lower photo): Chief Wade Goates - 20 Years, Larry Loesch - 35 Years, Barbara Smolik - 25 Years, and Danny Johnson - 35 Years.



Lt. Wayne Jetelina (bottom right photo) was named the **2012 Firefighter of the Year** for the Department.



Job well done - thank you for your service!



Apply Now for 2013 Citizens Police Academy!

Chief Robert Gracia and the Rosenberg Police Department would like to invite you to attend the 19th Rosenberg Citizens Police Academy. The purpose of the Academy is to provide Rosenberg citizens a better understanding of the daily operation of the Police Department, through educational sessions about different aspects of law enforcement.

Classes will begin Monday, February 4, 2013, and will be held every Monday evening from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. for 14 weeks. During the course, participants will learn about and be exposed to many different areas of law enforcement. Participants will have the opportunity to:

- Ride with an on-duty Patrol Officer
- Witness how emergency calls are received and dispatched
- Experience how Detectives investigate crimes, and
- Observe how Crime Scene Technicians collect and analyze evidence



Join the approximately 350 citizens who have graduated from the Rosenberg Citizens Police Academy in years past by completing the application available on the City website and submitting it electronically, or in-person at the Rosenberg Police Department, 2120 4th Street, Rosenberg, Texas. The deadline for applications is Monday, January 28, 2013.

Contact Lieutenant Colin Davidson at (832) 595-3726 or colind@ci.rosenberg.tx.us for further information.



O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree...

Christmas Tree Pick-Up Guidelines

Now that the holidays are a thing of the past, how can you get rid of your tree?

With the City's new green waste collection, Christmas tree disposal has never been easier!

Simply place your tree out at the curb with lighting, decorations, etc. removed, and trees will be disposed of by Republic with green waste service on Mondays.

Citizens may contact Citizen Relations at 832-595-3301 with questions.

INSIDER Newsletter Comments/Ideas/Suggestions?

The monthly INSIDER Newsletter is a product of the City's Communications Department.

We strive to be timely with the information presented, however print pieces have a somewhat limited shelf life.

For the most up-to-date City information, newsletters, and newsletter archives, please visit the City's website: **CityofRosenberg.com**

Please send any comments/ideas or suggestions related to the newsletter to: **communications@ci.rosenberg.tx.us**

Thanks for reading!



City Employees Honored for Years of Service

Employees were recognized at the City's Awards Luncheon for their years of dedicated and safe service to the City of Rosenberg. Recipients are pictured below with Mayor Vincent M. Morales, Jr., and City Manager Jack Hamlett. Service awards were presented in the following categories:



Longest-Serving Employees (L to R)

Dallis Warren - 33 years
Karl Zwahr - 35 years
George Velasquez, Sr. - 32 years (not pictured)
Robert Gracia - 32 years (not pictured)
William Fain - 31 years (not pictured)

35 Years of Service

Karl Zwahr



20 Years of Service

Sandra Anderson



15 Years of Service

Sherman Phillips
Federico DeLeon
Felix Charles
Winston Pink (not pictured)



25 Years of Service

George Belmares
Barbara Smolik

10 Years of Service

Juan Reyes
Darwin Dobesh
Charles Crocker
Deborah Almazan
Sally Chupik
Leroy Lopez
Richard Hooper
Jeremiah Ontiveros
George Velasquez II (not pictured)
Brian Carpenter (not pictured)
Matthew Hunter (not pictured)
Clint Leopold (not pictured)



5 Years of Service

Justin White
Paul Rodgers
Sherri Nichols
Darren McCarthy
Barbara Vick
John Maresh
Olga Martinez
Sarah Lyde
Darryl Lindemann
Renee LeLaurin
Matt Fielder
John Sotello
Michael Walden
Cullen Brady (not pictured)
Sean DeRoch (not pictured)
Jeremy Eder (not pictured)
Jason Escobar (not pictured)
Justin Rodgers (not pictured)
Jesus Vargas (not pictured)

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Rosenberg Thrives as RDC Projects Continue



One of the RDC's major projects this year includes demolition of the pools at Travis and Brazos Parks. The project at Travis Park is nearly complete, as evidenced in the photo on the left from the corner of Damon and Avenue N looking toward the park and ball fields, with just the remainder of the pump house left to be demolished and removed, as of December 17. The old pool area has been filled in, and the walking trail in Travis park will be extended to cover the newly-available green space.



The pool at Brazos Park is slated for demolition in 2013. The removal of the old, non-functional neighborhood pools has helped improve safety and the overall aesthetics of each park, allowing opportunities for further development in the newly available spaces.

Historic Downtown Rosenberg continues to flourish with the addition of several new businesses over the last few months, and another successful *Christmas in Rosenberg* event that was held Saturday, December 1. Imperial Arts has full winter and spring seasons slated for the new Center for the Arts, and several new businesses, including Xtreme DANZ, Downtown Studio, and Ol' RailRoad Cafe have opened, paving the way for an even more diverse and eclectic draw to our Historic Downtown.



2013 will prove to be a busy year for the RDC and the City as the two entities work together to determine next steps in encouraging further development and revitalization of Historic Downtown. At its December 18 meeting, City Council will appoint a "Blue Ribbon Committee" which is charged with determining the final scope for and use of the City's Old City Hall building, and the City and RDC continue negotiations to acquire and develop land for additional parking, helping to meet the needs of the numerous businesses and attractions frequented by residents and visitors alike. Keep your eye on the INSIDER for additional information as it becomes available on each of these projects.



Pictured at left (top to bottom): 1) A group of dancers from **Xtreme DANZ**, a dance and Zumba studio in Historic Downtown, prepares for a street performance to a packed crowd at this year's *Christmas in Rosenberg*. 2) The **Center for the Arts** (performance space and gallery), and **Downtown Studio** (salon) are both new occupants in the 800 block of 3rd Street. 3) The Vogelsang Building on Avenue G is home to the newly-renovated **Ol' RailRoad Cafe** (corner of 2nd and Avenue G). 4) Old City Hall, located at 4th Street and Avenue H.



The Rosenberg Development Corporation (RDC) was established in 1995 through public referendum as a "Type B" Economic Development Corporation and is allocated one-half cent of the City's sales tax proceeds to invest in projects that promote or develop new or expanding business and commerce, create jobs, and improve the quality of life in the community.

The RDC is governed by a Board of seven Directors and meets on the second Thursday of each month at 4 p.m. at the Rosenberg Civic Center. The public is encouraged to attend these meetings. RDC meeting agendas are available at RosenbergEcoDev.com. For more information, please contact the City's Economic Development Department at 832-595-3330.

The Rosenberg INSIDER is
an official publication of
the City of Rosenberg.

CityofRosenberg.com

February/March 2013

Rosenberg INSIDER

City Breaks Ground on New Fire Station

Members of Rosenberg City Council joined City staff and project team members on Tuesday, December 18, to officially break ground on Fire Station No. 3. The City's newest fire station will be located at the corner of FM 2977 and August Green Drive and will house an additional fire crew and pumper for the City of Rosenberg, enhancing the overall fire services provided to the Rosenberg community, and helping further improve the City's fire protection. Construction of the station is expected to be complete in fall 2013.

Mayor Vincent M. Morales, Jr., stated, *"Fire protection is one of the most important services a city can provide its residents. I am very excited that we are continuing the expansion and improvement of our fire service infrastructure to include the new Fire Station No. 3 as a complement to the outstanding Fire Department we already have. The new station will allow us to better serve the entire community by providing expanded equipment, service, and personnel. It is also a significant step in the City achieving our goal of an ISO PPC rating of 2. This project exemplifies the City's commitment to supporting our existing community and residents, while laying the groundwork for future development, and is emblematic of our City leadership's commitment to provide a safe community with a great quality of life."*



Pictured are (L to R): Lynn Foster (LDF Construction); Lisa Andel (BRW Architects); Ray Holliday (BRW Architects); Rosenberg Fire Chief Wade Goates; Councilor Cynthia McConathy; Councilor Tom Suter; Mayor Vincent M. Morales, Jr.; Councilor Juan Salazar; Councilor Dwayne Grigar; former Rosenberg Fire Chief Kathy Hutchens; Melissa Peña (Project Director); and Donald Robson (LDF Construction).

*Rosenberg Municipal Offices
will be closed Friday, March 29,
in observance of Good Friday.*

"One-Way Pairs" Project Update

The City of Rosenberg and Fort Bend County are working with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to address traffic congestion at the intersection of Avenue H and State Highway 36. Due to limited public right-of-way at the intersection, any expansion would require the purchase of adjacent businesses and properties. As an alternative, TxDOT has developed a plan to convert sections of Avenue H and Avenue I to one-way thoroughfares through a section of Rosenberg extending from Frost Street to Louise Street.

Because Avenue H (US 90A), Avenue I (FM 1640), and SH 36 are state right-of-ways, TxDOT is the lead agency on the project and will provide funding for engineering and construction. TxDOT's project schedule is to receive construction bids in 2014. Prior to construction, Rosenberg and Fort Bend County will share the costs of relocating City utilities (water and wastewater) and purchasing property for the east roadway connection. The City will contribute approximately \$2.5 million and Fort Bend County will contribute \$1.5 million from County Mobility Bond Funds approved by voters in 2007.

The City has completed the purchase of property bound by Avenue H, Avenue I, Louise Street and Damon Street, including the purchase of the Speedy Sticker property on Avenue I for the east roadway connection. Speedy Sticker is planning on relocating to a new facility on Avenue H by the end of 2013. Their new investment will be a positive contribution to Avenue H corridor redevelopment.

The City will replace sections of the City's aged wastewater infrastructure along Avenue H and in the downtown area beginning this summer (2013). This will improve services to customers, especially since existing sewer lines experience stormwater infiltration and backups. The City will then relocate water lines in the project area in 2014.

It is important to note that the utility improvements associated with the project are necessary updates to the City's aging infrastructure, whether or not the One-way Pairs Project is completed. Completing these improvements in conjunction with the One-way Pairs Project allows the City to leverage outside funds for them.

TxDOT will provide a **"refresher" overview of the One-way Pairs Project** at the **Rosenberg Civic Center on Thursday, February 28, in the evening**. Visit **CityofRosenberg.com** for times, or call Citizen Relations at 832-595-3301. The presentation is open to the public, and all interested are invited to attend to learn more about the project.

Got Warrants?

As part of the 2013 Great Texas Warrant Round-Up from Saturday, March 2, through Sunday, March 10, the Rosenberg Municipal Court and Rosenberg Police Department will be combining forces with nearly 300 law enforcement agencies across the State to search for and arrest anyone with outstanding warrants. Once the Round-Up begins March 2, the Rosenberg Police Department will aggressively target persons on the warrant list. Arrests can occur at any location, including the defendant's home, school, or workplace.



Notices have been mailed to all defendants with warrants pending against them. To avoid arrest, persons with outstanding warrants in one or more of the participating agencies are encouraged to pay all outstanding fines immediately.

Outstanding warrants with the Rosenberg Municipal Court may be paid by credit card either online at <https://www.municipalonlinepayments.com/rosenbergtx> or over the phone by calling 832-595-3450. Defendants may also pay by appearing in person at the Rosenberg Municipal Court located at City Hall, 2110 4th Street. Court hours are Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Alternatively, fines may also be paid by mail with a money order or cashier's check, mailed to Rosenberg Municipal Court, P.O. Box 32, Rosenberg, TX 77471-0032. Warrants will remain in force until payment is received and posted by Rosenberg Municipal Court personnel.

Rosenberg Municipal Court has reported all persons with outstanding warrants to the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) for non-renewal of drivers' licenses. Only full payment of outstanding fines will clear the DPS non-renewal status.

Any inquiries regarding the 2013 Great Texas Warrant Round-Up in Rosenberg should be directed to 832-595-3450.

Want to Serve on City Council?



Rosenberg will hold a **General Municipal Election Saturday, May 11, 2013**, for City Council and Mayor positions.

Information regarding applications for a place on the ballot is as follows:

Applications for a place on the City of Rosenberg Regular Election ballot may be filed at the City Secretary's Office, 2110 4th Street, Rosenberg, Texas 77471, during the following time period:

**January 30, 2013 (7:30 a.m.)
through
March 1, 2013 (5 p.m.)**

If filing by mail, applications should be mailed to the same address.

Interested individuals may contact the City Secretary's Office at 832-595-3340 for further information.

*Mark your calendar for Saturday, May 11,
to make your voice heard,
& be sure to watch the INSIDER in the
coming months for more election details!*

Image Committee

February BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS

Landscape:

Eric Jones
7915 Lake Commons Drive

Anthony & Cynthia Penn
703 Seabourne Meadow Drive

Jose & Reyna Rivera
1320 Mulcahy Street

Cisco & Mary Helen Rodriguez
915 Avenue E

Louis & Rhonwyn Weissman
2615 Bass Lane



Community Programming

Adult Softball (\$)

Mon/Tues/Wed @ Parks

Fencing Classes (\$)

Mon/Wed @ Civic Center

Fitness Classes (\$)

Mon/Wed @ Civic Center
Saturday @ Park

Health & Human Services Classes (Free)

2nd Tues. @ Civic Center

Line Dancing (Free)

Tues. @ Civic Center

Painting Group (Free)

Tues. @ Civic Center

Sewing Group (Free)

2nd Fri. @ Civic Center

Registration Required!



FISHtastic Kids' Fishing Tournament Saturday, March 2

8 a.m. - 12 Noon

Lake @

Seabourne Creek
Nature Park

Children ages four (4) and up are invited to come join in the fun! Must be accompanied by adults. Registration required.



Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, March 16

3 p.m.

Gazebo @
Seabourne Creek
Nature Park

Children ages four (4) to twelve (12) are invited to this festive "bring your own basket" egg hunt, complete with the Easter Bunny himself!

Visit CityofRosenberg.com, or contact (832) 595-3520 for more information!

RPD Officers Named Employees of the Month

Rosenberg Police Officers Brandon Moseley and Eliseo Flores were recognized as Employees of the Month for their service to a local resident. The resident, a senior citizen who was involved in an automobile accident, highly commended the two police officers who worked the accident stating that the officers were extremely professional and personable, and made sure the concerned citizen was not left alone while waiting for a family member to arrive. The officers were praised for the care and calm they showed in explaining the process to the individual involved in the accident.



Thank you, Officers Moseley and Flores for your professionalism and care, and congratulations on your exemplary behavior and positive portrayal of Rosenberg!

Pictured are (L to R): Dallis Warren, Assistant Police Chief; Jack Hamlett, City Manager; Officers Moseley and Flores; Robert Gracia, Police Chief; and Lt. Aaron Slater.

RPD Tweets, do You?

Follow the Rosenberg Police Department on Twitter and Facebook for the latest crime bulletins, real time alerts, information on wanted persons, and crime prevention tips.



[facebook.com/
rosenbergpolicedepartment](https://www.facebook.com/rosenbergpolicedepartment)



[@rosenbergpolice
twitter.com/rosenbergpolice](https://twitter.com/rosenbergpolice)

Local Jr. High Students Set Example of Giving

Rosenberg Animal Shelter was chosen by Reading Junior High School's National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) as the lucky recipient of the chapter's fall project to contribute to their community. Individual students wholeheartedly committed to collect donations from family and friends, but many went far beyond that by setting up shop outside local businesses or leaving bags on their neighbors' doorways, explaining the details of their project and requesting contributions. The group's enthusiasm for their "pet project" resulted in a generous outpouring of donations, from pet toys and food to monetary contributions.



When Rosenberg Animal Control Supervisor Jackie Jurasek and Animal Control Officer Renee McAnally were called to the school for the presentation, they were overwhelmed by the generosity that awaited them. The students had gathered enough food and supplies to fill 30 sizeable goodie bags to be given to the families of upcoming animal adoptions through the Animal Shelter! The donations completely filled the back of a full-size pickup truck.

One of the students used her artistic talents to create a gift tag with a drawing of a dog or cat to personalize each goodie bag. In addition to the goodie bags, the students raised monetary contributions and presented a check in the impressive amount of \$4,299.00 to Rosenberg Animal Control to help with efforts to adopt out more animals!

Vilma Martinez, librarian at Reading Junior High School and NJHS Adviser stated, "Students were overwhelmed with the willingness and generosity of their community. They realized that by working together, their combined efforts truly helped an organization in need. Because of their dedication and commitment, the project was a huge success. The excitement created by the success of this project sparked motivation in the chapter to look for other ways to help the community."

Thank you, Reading Junior High Honor Society, for your generous contribution!

Pictured are Rosenberg Animal Control Officer Renee McAnally and Supervisor Jackie Jurasek accepting the check and donations from Reading Junior High National Junior Honor Society students.

ROSENBERG DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



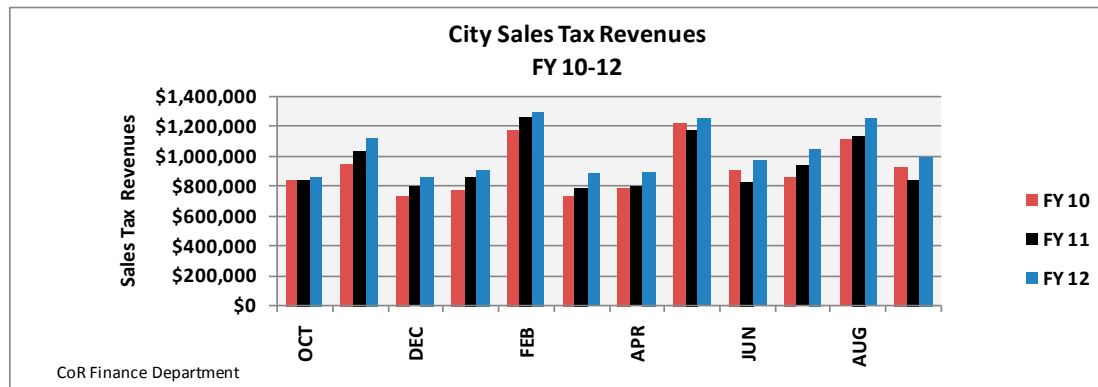
832.595.3330 • www.RosenbergEcoDev.com

Rosenberg Fiscal Year 2012 Sales Tax Update

The City of Rosenberg enjoyed improved sales tax revenues during Fiscal Year 2011-2012 (FY12). In comparison to the previous fiscal year, sales tax revenue receipts increased 9.5%. Of the 8.25 cents of sales tax paid on every dollar of applicable purchases in the City of Rosenberg, 6.25 cents are remitted to the State of Texas. The remaining 2 cents go to the City and of those 2 cents, ½ cent is dedicated to lowering the City's property tax rate; ½ cent is allocated to the Rosenberg Development Corporation for statutorily-allowable projects intended to create jobs and spur economic activity; and the remaining 1 cent is used for general fund operating costs.

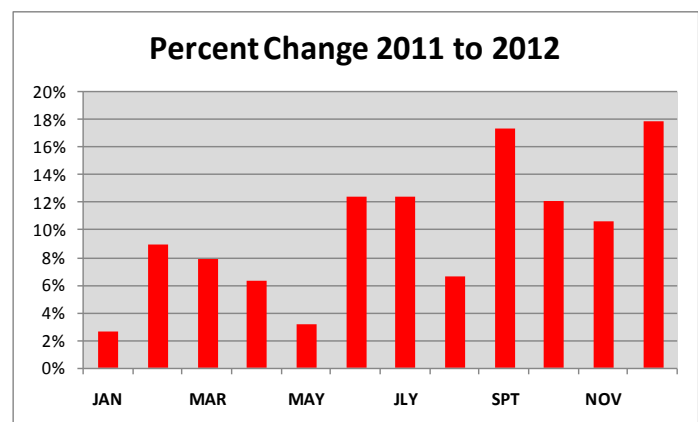
Sales tax generated throughout the City helps fund infrastructure improvements, enhances the quality of life for residents, and improves surroundings in which businesses and residents prosper. Economic development initiatives contribute to a cycle through which locally-spent dollars are collected and reallocated toward projects that improve the community as a whole, thereby improving the likelihood that more dollars will be generated which could then be reinvested. When you shop and dine in Rosenberg, you help your community and yourself by keeping your tax dollars local and allowing them to be recirculated and reinvested into projects benefitting you, your neighbors, and your places of business.

From October 1, 2011, through September 30, 2012 (FY12), the City of Rosenberg received approximately \$12.4 million in sales tax receipts (this does not include revenue from property taxes or other fees). February 2012 receipts (December 2011 sales) recorded the greatest single month of revenue with approximately \$1.3 million received while December 2011 receipts (October 2011 sales) were the smallest at \$864,544. There is a two month delay in sales tax reporting from the Texas Comptroller's office. Consequently, the sales tax monies received in February 2012 were actually collected in December 2011 during the holiday shopping season.



When comparing each month of FY12 sales tax revenues to the same month in the previous fiscal year, each reflected an increase ranging from 3% in October and February to a 19% in September.

FY12 was an exceptional year for City of Rosenberg sales tax generation, reflecting the fact that Rosenberg has become a regional shopping, dining and entertainment destination. Brazos Town Center continues to be a major sales tax generator for the City, bringing in approximately 30% of the City's total sales tax revenue. With additional shopping and restaurant opportunities opening in the near future, and a continued pattern of growth similar to what the City has experienced over the past decade, we can expect sales tax revenue to remain positive for the foreseeable future.



The Rosenberg INSIDER is
an official publication of
the City of Rosenberg.

CityofRosenberg.com

March/April 2013

Rosenberg INSIDER

Volunteer Enjoys "Doing Time" with the Police Department

Volunteering at the City of Rosenberg is a great way to be involved in your City, to have interaction with City employees, and to give back to your community.



Traci Frary is an ongoing volunteer in the Criminal Investigations Division (CID) of Rosenberg's Police Department (PD). In the four months since she began volunteering, Frary has already contributed a whopping 180 hours of her time, saying she gets so involved that she forgets when it is time to leave. Frary has proven herself to be a valuable asset to the division, as well both in the office and participating in such things as a drug awareness presentation at a local facility.

Frary responded to an ad placed by the R.E.V.V. Volunteer Program in the Fort Bend edition of the Houston Chronicle, and says the work she is doing is very fulfilling. She appreciates having been given the opportunity to further develop her skills.

Frary stated: *"I have really enjoyed doing time (volunteer time) with the Criminal Investigation Division of the Rosenberg Police Department. This volunteer position with CID has been a great opportunity for me to update my...office skills... I've been impressed with the friendliness and helpfulness of everyone I work with. Thanks... for entrusting me to make a contribution and for taking the time to share knowledge and insight into the world of law enforcement."*

Frary says that she would highly recommend others participate in the City's Volunteer Program, because it is set up with the volunteer in mind – making sure the experience is mutually rewarding, both to the City and to the volunteer.

Thank you Traci, and to the other volunteers that are now involved in helping the City to provide the best service possible to our community!

For more information on how you can participate, contact Volunteer Coordinator Barbara Vick at (832) 595-3323, or visit the City's web site and select "Departments" and then "Volunteer Program".

Pictured are: R.E.V.V. Volunteer Traci Frary (center) with Lieutenant Tracie Dunn and Sally Chupik of CID.



Rosenberg Municipal Offices
will be closed Friday, March 29,
in observance of Good Friday.

City Issues Twenty (20) Year Certificates of Obligation

On January 15, 2013, City Council approved the issuance of twenty (20) year Certificates of Obligation in the amount of \$9,000,000.00. The funds will be used for various Capital Improvement Projects including:

Airport Avenue – Phase One
Bamore Road – Phase Three
Bryan Road – Engineering
Old Richmond Road – Engineering
Sewer Line Replacements
Sidewalks
TxDOT One-Way Pairs Project
Water Plant No. 5 Expansion

The City was pleased to receive an interest rate of 2.23%, which is the lowest the City has received. Secondly, the bond rating agencies continued the City's bond rating of A+/Stable. Both of these actions demonstrate the City's favorable credit rating to borrow funds and the City's management of its debt service obligations. This is important for the City to finance future capital project needs such as the alternate Water Supply Project required by the Fort Bend Subsidence District.

Park Pool Demolitions Complete

The Parks Department recently completed demolition of pools at both Travis Park and Brazos Park. The project was funded by the Rosenberg Development Corporation. The areas at each park will be repurposed for extended park facilities.

**Brazos
Park**



**Travis
Park**



Keep Rosenberg Beautiful Spring Project Slated for Apr. 27



Keep Rosenberg Beautiful (KRB), a subsidiary of Rosenberg's Image Committee, is hosting local events to help beautify and clean up Travis Park (3005 Avenue N), and Macario Garcia Park (716 Blume Road) on Saturday, April 27, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

The events are endorsed by Keep Texas Beautiful, whose mission is to engage Texans to take responsibility for improving their community through litter prevention, beautification, and waste reduction. Keep Rosenberg Beautiful has been an affiliate of Keep Texas Beautiful since October 2011.

Residents, businesses, civic groups, and students are invited and encouraged to volunteer for the beautification projects. Volunteers are needed to assist with the simultaneous landscaping of the beds around the entrance signs of Travis and Macario Garcia Parks, and for an overall litter cleanup of the parks. Donations of plants and supplies for this project will also be accepted by Keep Rosenberg Beautiful.

Representatives from Republic Services will be on hand to encourage recycling and provide information on the recently implemented recycling program for residents and commercial businesses.

Through these projects, Keep Rosenberg Beautiful (KRB) will join a nationwide effort involving more than 2.3 million volunteers in more than 15,000 communities to participate in cleanup, beautification, and community improvement activities as part of the Great American Cleanup - the nation's largest cleanup, beautification and community improvement program headed up by Keep America Beautiful.

For information on volunteering or donating to the 2013 Spring Landscaping Project, please contact Keep Rosenberg Beautiful, at (832) 595-3323, or krb@ci.rosenberg.tx.us. For a volunteer application form to participate in this event, visit the City web site.

Image Committee

March BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS

Landscape:

Michael & Mendy Blank
7523 Summer Night Lane

CT & Marilyn Foster
7806 Lake Commons Drive

Chris & Liz Gonzales
2015 Hamilton

Richard & Teresa Lara
5417 Banner Lane

Wilda Lopez
5007 E. Parma

Renovation:

Byrd Cemetery
Blume Road

Bill Butler
828 3rd Street

INSIDER Newsletter Comments/Ideas/ Suggestions?

The monthly INSIDER Newsletter is a product of the City's Communications Department.

We strive to be timely with the information presented, however print pieces have a somewhat limited and brief shelf life.

For the most up-to-date City information, the newest newsletter, and newsletter archives, please visit the City's website at CityofRosenberg.com

Please send any comments, ideas or suggestions related to the newsletter to: communications@ci.rosenberg.tx.us

Thanks for reading!



**UPDATED
ROSENBERG
ELECTION DISTRICT
MAPS**

The City of Rosenberg has adopted new, revised election districts based on 2010 Census data.

The new maps are available on the City website via the "Election Information" icon on the homepage.

**ARE YOU
REGISTERED TO**



To vote in Texas, you must be registered. To do so, simply pick up an application, fill it out, and mail or return it at least 30 days before the election date. To vote in the May 11, 2013 election, your voter registration must be received in the Voter Registrar's office, or postmarked by April 11.

You're eligible to vote if you: are a United States citizen; are a resident of the county where you submit the application; are at least 18 years old on Election Day; are not a convicted felon; and have not been declared by a court to be either totally mentally incapacitated or partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote.

Voter registration applications are available at the Fort Bend County Elections Administrator office located at 4520 Reading Road, Rosenberg.

For more information, or to download an application, visit: www.votexas.org

Rosenberg Municipal Elections Slated for May 11

On February 19, Rosenberg City Council ordered a general election for selecting the officers of the City - Mayor and six (6) Councilors, and a special election for consideration of proposed amendments to the City's Home Rule Charter. Watch the INSIDER Newsletter in coming months, or visit the City website and select "Election Information" to find out more. An overview of the special election follows.

Rosenberg City Council adopted Ordinance No. 2013-10 calling for a special election on May 11, 2013, for the purpose of submitting to the qualified voters, for adoption or rejection, a total of eleven (11) proposed amendments to the existing Home Rule Charter of the City of Rosenberg. Election documents will now be reviewed by the Department of Justice for preclearance.

The City's Charter establishes the governmental structure and provides for the distribution of powers and duties among the various branches of government. The home rule concept assumes that governmental problems should be solved at the lowest possible level, closest to the people. As a home rule city, Rosenberg may establish guidelines for the general operation of the city, as long as they are not in conflict with state laws. Changes in the City's Charter must be approved by a vote of the people.

Ten (10) of the eleven (11) proposed amendments are general items for updating and cleaning up language in the Charter, and are not intended to substantively change the overall meaning. They include Proposition No. 1, and Proposition Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11. Proposition No. 2 does represent a substantive proposed change to the Charter.

Qualified voters will have the opportunity to vote for each amendment separately on the ballot. An overview of the eleven (11) proposed amendments is outlined below.

PROPOSITION NO. 1: Amending Section 1.01 by adding language allowing amendments to the Charter to be made by passage of an ordinance without an election, provided that the amendments do not change the meaning of the Charter. *Approval of this amendment would mean that the type of above-mentioned changes could be made in the future without holding a special election.*

PROPOSITION NO. 2: Amending Section 3.01(c) to require staggered terms for the City Council of the City of Rosenberg. *Rosenberg City Council consists of four (4) single member districts, two (2) at-large districts, and mayor. Currently, all seven of these positions are elected at the same time in odd numbered years. Proposition No. 2 would allow for them to be elected in alternating years beginning with elections in 2015.*

PROPOSITION NO. 3: Amending Section 3.07(g) by deleting "the zoning plan and". *The City of Rosenberg does not have a zoning plan.*

PROPOSITION NO. 4: Amending Section 4.02(2) by deleting "a man". *This amendment removes the gender requirement from qualifications for the Chief of Police.*

PROPOSITION NO. 5: Deleting Section 4.06, thereby abolishing the Department of Health and Sanitation. *The majority of the duties outlined in Section 4.06 of the Charter are handled by other City departments, or in other sections of the Code. The City has a Sanitarian that conducts restaurant inspections, etc., but does not have a Department of Health and Sanitation.*

PROPOSITION NO. 6: Amending Section 5.01 to allow elections to be held in May as provided by Texas Election Code, and in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas.

PROPOSITION NO. 7: Amending Section 5.07 to canvass election results in accordance with the laws of this state.

PROPOSITION NO. 8: Amending Section 8.02 to prohibit the expenditure of public funds for development of property unless authorized by the constitution and the laws of this state.

PROPOSITION NO. 9: Amending Section 8.03 to include the words "make and recommend to the city council" regarding the powers and duties of the planning commission for approval and disapproval of subdivision plats.

PROPOSITION NO. 10: Deleting Section 9.17, thereby abolishing the Department of Taxation. *The City does not have a Department of Taxation.*

PROPOSITION NO. 11: Deleting Section 9.18 thereby abolishing the position of tax assessor and collector and enumerated duties. *The City does not have a Tax Assessor and Collector. We currently contract with Fort Bend County for this service.*

For more information on the election, visit CityofRosenberg.com and select the "Election Information" icon, or contact the City Secretary's office (832) 595-3340. The current City of Rosenberg Charter is also available online via the elections page, or from the City Secretary's office.

ROSENBERG DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



832.595.3330 • www.RosenbergEcoDev.com

Rosenberg Business Park

Creating a deed-restricted business park has been a priority for the Rosenberg Development Corporation (RDC) since adoption of its strategic plan in 2008. The Rosenberg area will see several benefits from a business park. With deed restrictions, the use of the property as a business park and the level of quality of development are assured. In turn, this will lead to the creation of new jobs and capital investment. Ultimately, the wages and capital investment will be cycled through the local economy, benefiting not only other businesses, but other taxpayers.

Another beneficial aspect of business parks is that they contribute a higher percentage of property taxes than other types of development, but use fewer services. This is especially true of school taxes. This makes business parks a net donor to the property tax base, helping to relieve the burden on homeowners.

The City of Rosenberg and the RDC recently entered into an agreement for the development of a deed restricted business park with a local Houston developer, Fuller Realty Partners. The business park will be located on a 182 acre tract south of U.S. Highway 59 on F.M. 2218. The property had previously been proposed as a residential subdivision. Now called the "Rosenberg Business Park," it will feature development sites for office, light industrial, and warehouse buildings.

As part of the agreement, the City of Rosenberg and the Rosenberg Development Corporation will assist with construction of public infrastructure (roads, utilities and drainage) necessary to serve the commercial development. The developer will then construct buildings and further develop the property. Should the property not develop on schedule, the agreement calls for the accelerated payment of property taxes in order to ensure a return on the investment of public funds.

Rosenberg is experiencing a new period of economic growth, and the creation of a business park represents an important next step in that process. By investing in a deed restricted development, the City and RDC are ensuring the quality of the growth in our community and helping protect Rosenberg's character.

BUSINESS PARKS

- ***Provide "shovel ready sites"***
- ***Allow for stronger marketing and branding***
- ***Generate property taxes and typically require few services***
 - ***Ultimately create new jobs and investment***



The Rosenberg INSIDER is
an official publication of
the City of Rosenberg.

CityofRosenberg.com

April/May 2013

Rosenberg INSIDER

Municipal Election Slated for May 11, 2013

Council Offices and Proposed Charter Amendments to be put to Voters

Rosenberg City Council has ordered a general election for selecting the officers of the City, and a special election for consideration of proposed amendments to the City's Home Rule Charter to be held Saturday, May 11, 2013. Sample ballots will be available from the Fort Bend County Elections Office.



In the general election, qualified voters will select one candidate in each of the following City of Rosenberg races:

- **Mayor**
- **Council District At Large Position 1**
- **Council District At Large Position 2**
- and
- **Council District in which the voter resides (either District 1, 2, 3, or 4)***

In the special election, voters will have the opportunity to accept or reject a total of eleven (11) proposed amendments to the City's home rule charter. Voters will have the opportunity to vote separately for each amendment on the ballot. The City's Charter establishes the governmental structure and provides for the distribution of powers and duties among the various branches of government. As a home rule city, Rosenberg may establish guidelines for the general operation of the City, as long as they are not in conflict with state laws. Changes in the City's Charter must be approved by a vote of the people.

Ten (10) of the eleven (11) proposed amendments are general items for updating and cleaning up language in the Charter, and are not intended to substantively change the overall meaning. Proposition No. 2 represents a substantive proposed change to the Charter. An overview of the eleven (11) proposed amendments is available at CityofRosenberg.com/Elections.

For early voting, voters may vote at any early voting location in the County. Early voting runs daily (except Sundays) from April 29 through May 7. A full early voting schedule is available on the City website.

On election day, voters must vote at the specific location assigned to their precinct. Election day voting will occur between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Please check the website for a full list and schedule, or contact Fort Bend County Elections at (281) 341-8670.

For more information, visit: CityofRosenberg.com/Elections, or contact the City of Rosenberg City Secretary's Office at (832) 595-3340, or the Fort Bend County Elections Office at (281) 341-8670.

**The City's election districts have changed since the last municipal election due to redistricting based on 2010 Census data. Please check the new maps available on the City website, or contact the City Secretary's office to verify your election district.*

Rosenberg Municipal Offices
will be closed Monday, May 27,
in observance of Memorial Day.



Auditor Presents FY 2012 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

Pattillo, Brown & Hill, LLP, presented the City of Rosenberg's audited financial statements for Fiscal Year 2012 to City Council at the March 19 Meeting.

The firm gave the City an unqualified opinion - the highest level of assurance possible - indicating that the City has presented its financial statements in conformity with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). An unqualified opinion assures that the financial statements are free of material misstatement based upon examination of the supporting documents and disclosures of the figures contained in the City's financial statements.

In addition to being in compliance with accounting standards, John Manning, with Pattillo, Brown, & Hill, commented on the health of the City's fund balance, as well as the success of the City's conservative budget approach (on both the revenue and expenditure sides).

Highlights of the FY12 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) include: the City's total net assets, excluding component units, increased by \$13,424,299; the City's governmental funds reported an ending fund balance of \$27,768,472, an increase of \$4,536,517 in comparison with the previous year; unassigned fund balance for the General Fund was \$6,243,049, or 29% of total General Fund expenditures; and the City's long-term debt increased by \$4,525,071 during FY12.

Overall, the City's financial outlook remains healthy and stable. Standard and Poor's rating service has assigned the City an 'A+' long term rating, and Moody's rating service has assigned an 'Aa3' rating, with both agencies commenting on the City's stable financial operations, healthy fund balances, and good financial management policies and practices as part of the basis for their ratings.

The City's solid financial footing (and consequently, its low risk as an investment opportunity) is demonstrated in the above bond ratings and has also been recently affirmed in the marketplace by the low percentage rates the City has received on its two most-recent bond sales (2.23% and 1.92% respectively).

The vitality of Rosenberg's retail market, especially Brazos Town Center, continues to have a significant positive impact for sales tax revenues. Additionally, the City's property tax base has expanded to an appraised value of over \$1.5 billion in FY12 - a 31% increase over FY08.

To view the 2012 CAFR in its entirety, visit CityofRosenberg.com/CAFRs, or contact the Finance Department at (832) 595-3350.

April is National Volunteer Month

This month Americans will celebrate giving their time and energy, but not getting paid for it. So, what gives? April is national volunteer month, encompassing National Volunteer Week, April 21 - 27, 2013. The recognition began in 1974 when President Richard Nixon signed an executive order establishing the week as an annual celebration of volunteering, and every president since has signed a proclamation promoting the recognition.

During National Volunteer Week, thousands of volunteers around the country will be honored with local organizational awards for their community service, providing organizations with the unique opportunity to bestow national and presidential recognition on their volunteers who have made a sustained commitment to service.

The City of Rosenberg will also honor its volunteers this April, many of whom have served this past year in City offices and at City-hosted events. In total, the City's volunteers contributed 912 recorded hours in 2012 to the enhancement of City services and our community!



For information about how you can join the force of volunteers at the City of Rosenberg, visit CityofRosenberg.com/Volunteer, or contact the Volunteer Coordinator at (832) 595-3323, or barbarav@ci.rosenberg.tx.us.

This April, be sure to thank the volunteers in your life for all they do!

Image Committee

April BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS

Landscape:

Brazos Senior Villas
5801 Reading Road

Edward & Jennifer DeLeon
2004 Hamilton Street

Andrea Torres
834 Vera Cruz Drive

Ovidio & Alexia Villalobos
1002 Vera Cruz Drive

Renovation:

**Imperial Arts
Center for the Arts**
823 3rd Street

OI' Railroad Café
819 2nd Street

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Saturday, April 20
9:00 a.m.

Seabourne Creek Regional
Sports Complex
**Pitch, Hit & Run
Competition**

Thursday, April 25
6:30 p.m.

Rosenberg Civic Center
**Rosenberg Police
Department Community
Partners Meeting**

Saturday, April 27
9:00 a.m.

Macario Garcia Park
Travis Park

**Keep Rosenberg
Beautiful Spring
Landscaping Projects**

Monday, April 29
8:00 a.m.

Multiple Locations
**Early Voting By Personal
Appearance Begins**

Tuesday, May 7
7:00 p.m.

Multiple Locations
Early Voting Ends

Visit
CityofRosenberg.com/Events
for a full event calendar, and
details on above events.



Volunteers Wanted!



Volunteers are wanted for the KRB Spring Projects slated for the morning of April 27 at Macario Garcia and Travis Parks from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Both parks will have their entrance signs landscaped, and will undergo litter cleanup in an ongoing effort by KRB to beautify and improve our community.

Representatives from Republic Services will be on hand at both locations to encourage recycling and to provide information on the recently implemented curbside recycling program for residential and commercial customers.

Keep Rosenberg Beautiful is a subsidiary of Rosenberg's Image Committee, and the 2013 Spring Project is part of the Great American Cleanup – the nation's largest cleanup, beautification and community improvement program, headed up by Keep America Beautiful.

For more information, or to volunteer, contact Keep Rosenberg Beautiful at krb@ci.rosenberg.tx.us or (832) 595-3323.



April is Animal Cruelty Prevention Month

- **If you see animal cruelty, report it.** Contact Rosenberg Animal Control if you observe animal cruelty or see evidence of it. During business hours, call (832) 595-3490; during evenings or weekends, contact the Rosenberg Police Department at (832) 595-3700 to report animal cruelty.
- **Get to know and look out for the animals in your neighborhood.** By being aware, you're more likely to notice, for example, that the dog near you who was once hefty has lost weight rapidly—a possible indicator of abuse or neglect.
- **Make the call.** Without phone calls from concerned citizens who report cruelty in their neighborhoods, we wouldn't know about most instances of animal abuse. It all comes from the public, it all starts with YOU—that's why it's so important to keep your eyes and ears open.
- **Provide as much information as possible when reporting animal cruelty.** Details you provide can go a long way toward assisting an investigating officer. It helps to write down the type of cruelty you witnessed, who was involved, the date of the incident and where it took place.
- **Set a good example for others.** If you have pets, be sure to always show them the love and good care they deserve, but it's more than just food, water, and adequate shelter. If you think your animal is sick, bring him to the veterinarian. Be responsible and have your animals spayed or neutered. And give your pets lots of hugs!
- **Talk to your kids about how to treat animals with kindness and respect.** Children understand that animals are living creatures who have the ability to feel pain, joy and sadness. Tell the kids that their dog or cat would really appreciate fresh water every day or some daily playtime. Remind them that an animal should be protected if left outside in cold or bad weather.
- **Support your local shelter or animal rescue organization.** Reporting evidence of animal cruelty and asking your Animal Control officers how you can help are a couple of ways you can lend support. Encourage others to adopt a pet from the local Animal Shelter.
- **Start a Neighborhood Watch Program.** Get to know the animals in your neighborhood and invite your friends and neighbors to do the same. Together you can keep an eye out for any suspicious behaviors—abuse and neglect of companion animals, the mistreatment of local wildlife, dogs left in hot cars and other signs of abuse.

Source: aspca.org.

Protect Your Pet with a Current Rabies Vaccination

The City's Animal Control Department reminds you of the importance of annual rabies vaccinations for family pets. It is not unusual to see various species of wildlife in the Rosenberg area, and the possible risk of rabies infection is always present when such animals invade private property. Keeping your pet's rabies vaccination current will help protect them from the possibility of becoming infected with rabies, or from transmitting rabies to another animal or person.

Please remember that the rabies vaccination must be kept current and registered annually with the City, and is very effective. Help ensure the safety of your animals, and help eliminate the risk of a painful or possibly deadly infection by vaccinating them yearly. Report any wildlife acting abnormally immediately to Animal Control by calling (832) 595-3490 during regular office hours, or Rosenberg Police Dispatch at (832) 595-3700 after hours.

New Animal Control Facility Groundbreaking



The City broke ground on the new Animal Control Facility March 20th. The new facility is located adjacent to the existing facility on Blume Road, and will provide approximately 2,600 sq. ft. of office and kennel space with improved areas for animal care and adoption. The facility will also be home to the City's first rainwater harvesting system. Project team members from Bass Construction and RWS Architects joined City Council and staff for a photo opportunity at the site (left). Construction is scheduled for completion in just over six months.

ROSENBERG DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



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US 59 Designated Interstate 69 through Rosenberg

Texas is growing, and the future success of our state depends in large measure on advancing our transportation system to meet increased traffic demands. The Texas Department of Transportation announced in February that the newest segment of Interstate 69 (I-69) - a 28-mile stretch along US 59 from the 610 Loop to south of Rosenberg - has received federal approval.

The existing section of US 59 is now part of the Interstate Highway System and will be signed as both I-69 and US 59 according to the I-69 Texas Alliance. According to the Alliance for I-69 website, "The southern 10 miles of this section has only two travel lanes in each direction and in some areas does not have frontage roads. Environmental clearance work has been underway for several years to expand this section in the future to match to [the] urban section that exists through Sugar Land."

The segment is part of a larger push in Texas to develop I-69 through the state as quickly as possible to encourage development and growth. I-69 is being developed along existing roadways as an artery for freight movement along the 1,600 miles between Texas and Michigan, and will serve as an important outlet for exporting Texas products to the rest of the nation.

According to the Office of the Governor's website, Governor Perry commented at the Capitol announcement and legislative briefing on the project February 6, "I-69 represents a vital component in our thriving, and growing economy, not just in eastern Texas or South Texas but across the entire state."

Total estimated cost for the project across Texas is \$16 billion, and will not only facilitate improved safety, but will also encourage continued economic development via the movement of goods along the Interstate to the Midwest and Northeast.

Success in developing Interstate 69 can be attributed to a partnership between federal, state and local leaders, the I-69 Advisory and Segment Committees, the Alliance for I-69 Texas, and the Texas Department of Transportation.

For more information, visit:
dot.state.tx.us/drivenbytexans or
i69texasalliance.com.



Hurricane Season is Upon Us - Are You Prepared?

Hurricane season officially begins June 1 and continues through the end of November. According to the National Hurricane Center at the National Weather Service, history teaches us that a lack of awareness and preparation are commonalities among all major hurricane disasters. By being aware of one's vulnerability, and what actions you should take to prepare, you can reduce the effects of a hurricane disaster.

As the season approaches, the City of Rosenberg reminds residents that we live in a potentially-threatened area, and encourages you to be informed and prepared in case a hurricane makes landfall on the Texas Gulf Coast. Even though Rosenberg is not situated directly on the coast, we could be severely affected by any hurricane that enters the Gulf of Mexico. Hurricanes can cause catastrophic damage to coastlines and several hundred miles inland. The Texas Department of Public Safety (TXDPS) has issued the following preparedness tips; keep these handy and discuss them with your family as you plan to stay as safe as possible.

- **Put an emergency supply kit together now.** Refill and re-check supplies AFTER EVERY STORM. After a storm hits, you may be able to return home in a matter of days. But re-entry may take much longer, depending on storm damage.

An emergency supply kit includes: NOAA weather radio and batteries, flashlight and batteries, extra eyeglasses, bottled water, non-perishable food, dry clothes, bedding, medications and copies of prescriptions, special products for babies, elderly and medically fragile family members, cash, credit cards, photo IDs, important documents and records (in a waterproof container), proof of residence and information your agent would require to process insurance claims.

- **Prepare an emergency kit for your pets** and a plan for how to care for them when you are on the road and in a shelter or motel. Do not leave your pets behind.

- **Make a checklist of preparations to be made before an evacuation and go over it with your family.** Review it again when a storm is in the Gulf of Mexico.

- **Learn evacuation routes BEFORE storm season.** Make sure you have a full tank of gas before you leave. Expect delays and longer drive-times than normal. Just like any rush hour, traffic congestion in an evacuation is unavoidable.

- **Contact your local office of emergency management to get information on making arrangements for anyone in your household who may need special assistance during an evacuation.**

To learn about hurricane hazards, what to do during a hurricane, how to plan for people with special needs, or for pets, visit one of the following: **Ready.gov**, **HurricaneWorkshop.com**, or **RosenbergResponds.com**.



Rosenberg Municipal Offices
will be closed Monday, May 27,
in observance of Memorial Day.



RPD Officers Named Employees of the Month

Rosenberg Police Officers John Delgado and Sean DeRoch responded to a call from a resident concerned about a gentleman who seemed to be lost and was wandering in their neighborhood. The officers determined through conversation with the gentleman that he had driven many miles to make a surprise visit to his cousin whom he had not seen in thirty (30) years. The gentleman was confused, however, because of the many changes to the local roads and neighborhoods. He had not been able to locate his cousin's home, but was able to provide the name to the officers.

The two officers graciously went to work to locate the gentleman's cousin, and made a call to the residence, explaining the situation. The surprised and grateful resident sent a warm letter of appreciation to the Rosenberg Police Department, praising Officers Delgado and DeRoch for their kindness and help in reconnecting her with her cousin. This act of kindness demonstrates the officers' dedication to the community through their actions which were clearly above and beyond the call of duty.

Thank you, Officers Delgado and DeRoch for living up to the Police Department's pledge to strive to enhance the quality of life for the citizens you serve and the visitors who pass through; your help "meant the world" to this resident and her visiting cousin. Congratulations on a job well done!



Officers DeRoch and Delgado are pictured with Cyndy Powell, Assistant to the City Manager, and Lieutenant Aaron Slater.

May is Building Safety Month

A Celebration of Safe Construction and Code Compliance

When you enter a house or other type of building, you assume it is safely and properly constructed, and that it complies with state and local building codes. Fortunately, local safety experts work hard to ensure buildings are safe. To help raise awareness of building safety, the City of Rosenberg, along with other jurisdictions across the United States, proudly celebrates Building Safety Month during May.

This year's theme is Code Officials Keep You Safe. "When our building safety and fire prevention experts inspect buildings during and after construction, they help to ensure that the places where you live, learn, work, worship and play are safe," said Tonya Palmer, Rosenberg Building Official. "Ensuring public safety is something we think about and do every day working with home builders, plumbers, roofers and other construction industry trades and contractors."

Building codes address all aspects of construction, from structural components to fire prevention, plumbing and mechanical systems, and energy efficiency. To ensure buildings are safe requires the active participation of code officials, fire inspectors, architects, builders, engineers, contractors and others in the construction industry, as well as property owners.

"Public safety is our number one concern," said Ms. Palmer. "During Building Safety Month and all year long, building safety and fire prevention officials are here to help protect you, your family and our community."

Building Safety Month's sponsor, the International Code Council, is a member-focused association dedicated to helping the building safety community and construction industry provide safe and sustainable construction through the development of codes and standards used in the design, build and compliance process.

For more information, please visit **BuildingSafetyMonth.org**. For questions related to City of Rosenberg codes, please contact the Building Inspections and Code Enforcement Department at (832) 595-3500.



Image Committee

May BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS

Landscape:

Jerome & Elizabeth Korenek
2713 Parrott Avenue

Ronald & Paula Moncia
1401 7th Street

Jo Murray
1111 Lindsey Drive

Jim & Liz Stockstill
1218 Hemple Drive

**Mark Chupik &
Stephen Walker**
1203 Lawrence Street

Renovation:

Car Wash USA
3908 Avenue I

**Johnny & Jessica
Rodriguez**
1710 Marilyn Street

Public Works Week May 19 - 25

"Because of Public Works..."

National Public Works Week will be recognized in the City of Rosenberg May 19 - May 25.

Public Works contribute to citizens' daily lives by planning, building, managing and operating the infrastructure that keeps communities running - systems such as water, wastewater, streets and drainage.

This year's theme is "Because of Public Works..." and is intended to convey the quality of life brought to communities through services provided by Public Works employees such as clean water, as well as and safe streets and neighborhoods.

Remember as you go about your daily life this May, that Public Works helps make it possible!

Source: American Public Works Association



Davidson Honored for Service



Rosenberg Police Lieutenant Colin Davidson retired March 7, 2013, after 24 years of service with the Rosenberg Police Department.

He was honored by City Council at their March 19 meeting, and presented with plaques commemorating his service to the City and Police Department.

Lieutenant Davidson began his career as a Patrol Officer and moved through the ranks as Patrol Sergeant, Detective, and ultimately, Lieutenant.

As Professional Standards Lieutenant, Davidson's responsibilities included internal affairs investigations, overseeing department training, managing open records and coordinating special events such as the Rosenberg Citizen Police Academy.

Lieutenant Davidson is pictured with Mayor Vincent M. Morales, Jr., Police Chief Robert Gracia, and City Manager Jack Hamlett.

Mosquito Season in Here - FIGHT THE BITE!

As summer approaches, it's time again to remind everyone of steps that individuals can take to reduce the risk of exposure to mosquitoes and West Nile Virus.



The City of Rosenberg sprays regularly for mosquitos during mosquito season. According to Health and Human Services, however, residents should not rely solely on mosquito spraying by the county or city. The spray may not reach backyard areas because of fences, homes, and other barriers.

It is important to remember that spraying done by the City is an attempt to control the mosquito population, but it is impossible to eradicate mosquitoes. It takes everyone doing their part in their own neighborhoods to keep the pests to a minimum.

Residents can take responsibility in and around their own home by following the 4 D's:

- **DRAIN** standing water in your yard and neighborhood such as empty flowerpots, clogged rain gutters, non-aerated ponds, broken hot tubs or fountains, and puddles from over watering. Mosquitoes love to breed in stagnant water.
- **DUSK/DAWN** is when infected mosquitoes are most active. Try your best to stay indoors at these times of day.
- **DRESS** in long sleeves and pants when you're outside and mosquitoes are active. For extra protection, spray thin clothing with repellent.
- **DEET** (n,n-diethyl-m-toluamide) is an ingredient to look for in your insect repellent. Follow label instructions, and always wear repellent when outdoors. Consider using sprays made for yards and other outdoor areas.

Visit cdc.gov for additional information on the prevention of the West Nile Virus. For information regarding the City's program, contact Citizen Relations at (832) 595-3301.

Surprise Visitor in Seabourne Creek Nature Park

Texas Master Naturalists discovered a rare visitor in Seabourne Creek Nature Park during their most recent monthly bird hike held April 3. The visitor was a Green Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle americana*) which is normally a resident of the south Texas and southeastern Arizona to Chile and Argentina region. This surprise sighting was the first record of this species in Fort Bend County and has been registered with eBird-Rare Birds.

Kingfishers are found near water and wooded areas where they can prey from a waterside perch. Seabourne Creek Nature Park contains a wetland area, creek and four-acre lake, which must have enticed the female kingfisher to pay a visit.



Seabourne Creek Nature Park is being restored to a natural habitat for birds, mammals and other wildlife. As a result of efforts to-date, over 150 different birds have been documented in the park, with 13 new species documented since January 1 of this year.

To participate in the fun and enjoy quality birding close to home, join the Coastal Prairie Chapter, Texas Master Naturalists on their next bird hike. Guided hikes are held at the park the first Wednesday of each month, from November through May, from 8 to 10 a.m. For more information about the hikes, visit www.txmn.org/coastal, or call (832) 588-8431.



The Texas Master Naturalists program is sponsored by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. For additional information call (281) 633-7033 or email mmcdowell@ag.tamu.edu.

Article information and photo courtesy Coastal Prairie Chapter, Texas Master Naturalists.

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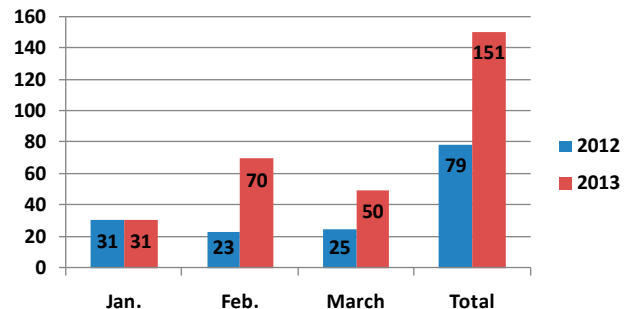


Rosenberg Residential Development

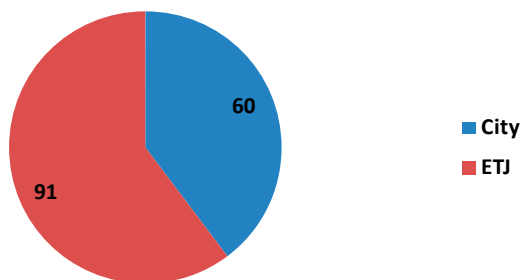
Although Rosenberg residential development slowed as a result of the national real estate crash, current indicators suggest that the area may be beginning a new boom. In the first quarter of 2013 (January through March), the City of Rosenberg Planning Department recorded 151 house starts, compared to 79 during the first quarter of 2012 - a 91% increase.

Approximately 40% of the starts are in the City limits, while the remaining 60% are in the extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ). This is to be expected as the ETJ area is roughly four times as large as the incorporated area of Rosenberg. Although homes in the ETJ do not contribute now to the City's property tax base, they will eventually be in the City. Additionally, many ETJ residents work and shop in Rosenberg.

First Quarter 2012 Versus 2013 House Starts



City Versus ETJ House Starts



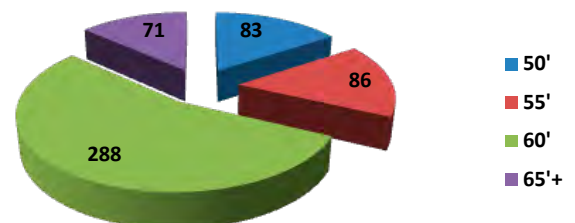
Within the City limits, the most active neighborhoods have been Summer Lakes, The Reserve at Brazos Town Center and Cottonwood. In the ETJ, Bonbrook Plantation, River Run at the Brazos and Sunrise Meadow have experienced the most construction activity so far this year.

The Rosenberg area has also experienced an increase in the number of residential lots submitted in subdivision plats. In Q1 of 2013, 528 lot plats have been submitted for review. This is an increase of 493% from Q1 of 2012 when only 89 plats were submitted. The majority of these platted lots are associated with the opening of proposed new sections in existing neighborhoods. Approximately 45% of the newly platted lots are located in the City limits; a majority of which are in Summer Lakes. The remaining 55% of newly platted lots are in the ETJ, with Sunrise Meadow making up the bulk of the new ETJ lots.

Another positive development related to Rosenberg's residential development is the growing size of residential lots. Formerly, the majority of new residential lots in the Rosenberg area were 50' or 55' wide. However, of the newly platted lots in Q1 2013, 68% are 60' or larger. The increasing size of the lots is important, because it suggests that builders are constructing more expensive homes in the Rosenberg area.

As Rosenberg's economy continues to improve via the expansion of existing businesses and the arrival of new ones, residential development in the area should continue for the foreseeable future. This trend should be augmented by the fact that there is a relatively small quantity of new land to develop for residential purposes in the eastern portion of Fort Bend County. As the number of Rosenberg rooftops continues to increase, residents can expect to enjoy new employment opportunities, restaurants, shops and entertainment venues in the future.

First Quarter 2013 Lots Platted by Size/Width



The Rosenberg Development Corporation (RDC) was established in 1995 through public referendum as a "Type B" Economic Development Corporation, and is allocated one-half cent of the City's sales tax proceeds to invest in projects that promote or develop new or expanding business and commerce, create jobs, and improve the quality of life in the community. The RDC is governed by a Board of seven Directors and meets on the second Thursday of each month at 4 p.m. at the Rosenberg Civic Center. The public is encouraged to attend these meetings. RDC meeting agendas are available at RosenbergEcoDev.com. For more information, please contact the City's Economic Development Department at (832)595-3330.

The Rosenberg INSIDER is
an official publication of
the City of Rosenberg.

CityofRosenberg.com

June/July 2013

Rosenberg INSIDER

Keep Rosenberg Beautiful (KRB) Spring Project Success



Thirty-eight (38) community volunteers teamed up with KRB Board members on Saturday, April 27, as part of KRB's Spring Beautification Project to give two Rosenberg neighborhood parks a touch of color and a little tender care. Volunteers installed plants to landscape the entrance signs at Travis Park (3004 Avenue N) and Macario Garcia Park (716 Blume Road), and picked up litter at both parks.

The event was endorsed by Keep Texas Beautiful, and was also part of the Great American Cleanup, the nation's largest cleanup, beautification and community improvement program. Plants and supplies for KRB's projects are provided through donations from local businesses and individuals. Funding the 2013 spring project was provided by the Union Pacific Foundation, through a grant awarded to KRB early in 2013 for program support.



KRB was formed as a subsidiary of the Rosenberg Image Committee in 2011. Its purpose is to "educate and engage citizens to take responsibility for improving and cleaning their community environment." The organization has a rolling three-year plan which includes projects to beautify and clean up local parks. The group's work is completed by volunteers interested in beautifying the Rosenberg community.

For further information about Keep Rosenberg Beautiful, contact Barbara Vick, Volunteer Coordinator.



Above left: Volunteers celebrate a completed project at Macario Garcia Park. **Above Right:** Volunteers pause for a photo at Travis Park.

City Celebrates Volunteers

The City of Rosenberg offers numerous ways to volunteer – from committees to special events and assisting in offices. Many of the events and activities that the City plans would not be possible without the participation of volunteers. During 2012, the first year of operation, the City's Volunteer Program recorded more than 912 hours contributed by a total of over 285 volunteers through special events such as BOO-berg, Gazebo Lighting, Christmas in Rosenberg, and KRB landscaping projects, in addition to ongoing work in City offices and at year-round projects at Seabourne Creek Nature Park, representing a substantial contribution that enhances City services.

During the month of April, the City held two functions to show appreciation and give specific recognition to those special people who contributed their time and energy to the community through their volunteerism with the City. Residents who serve voluntarily on the various commissions, boards, committees, and task forces were celebrated at a dinner on April 18. Volunteers who assisted with a special event or in an office at the City were recognized April 23, at a luncheon to express the City's appreciation for their service.

If you are interested in investing a part of your time to be involved in the life of your community through the City of Rosenberg, please visit CityofRosenberg.com/Volunteer, or contact Barbara Vick, Volunteer Coordinator, at (832) 595-3323 or barbarav@ci.rosenberg.tx.us, for more information on how you can offer your skills and experience through volunteering.



Rosenberg Municipal Offices
will be closed Thursday, July 4,
for Independence Day.

Family 4th Independence Day Celebration

The City of Rosenberg is proud to announce the 14th Annual **Family 4th Independence Day Celebration** to be held Thursday, July 4, 2013, at 6 p.m. at Seabourne Creek Nature Park (3831 Highway 36 South).

This year's **Family 4th** will include live musical entertainment by the Level One Band, concessions from a diverse spread of food and beverage vendors, and a children's carnival area. The event will also include the ever-popular complimentary horse-drawn wagon rides throughout Seabourne Creek Nature Park. Guides from the Coastal Prairie Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists will accompany riders to give an overview of the Park's ecosystems, wildlife, and attractions.

The evening will culminate with a magnificent fireworks display set to patriotic music at approximately 9:15 p.m. This year's show promises to be bigger and better than ever before – you don't want to miss it!

Attendees are encouraged to bring their lawn chairs or blankets, and family and friends, but are reminded to leave their pets, alcohol and tobacco at home, as these items are prohibited in City of Rosenberg parks. General event parking will be available in the grass lot immediately south of the event entrance (weather-permitting), and at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds. In preparation for the event, Seabourne Creek Nature Park will be closed to the public from approximately Tuesday, July 2, through Friday, July 5.

Visit CityofRosenberg.com/Family4th, or call (832) 595-3520 for general event information. The event will be held rain or shine, so be sure to bring your rain gear just in case and check the website for day-of event information and updates.

Summer Safety Reminders

Summer, along with patriotic holidays such as Memorial Day and Independence Day, bring ample opportunity to enjoy the outdoors, to soak up the sun, and to revel in the beauty of pyrotechnics. Consequently, it's time to remind ourselves of simple steps that should be taken to help ensure this summer is safe and happy for everyone.

Sun Safety: Protect your skin against the sun with SPF sunscreen, and drink plenty of fluids to avoid dehydration.



Water Safety: Make sure anyone near water has the proper skills to swim; keep an eye on young children and check flotation devices for leaks.

Grilling Safety: Check to make sure your grill is in proper working order; don't ignite charcoal with gasoline or lighter fluid; use heat resistant tools and never lean over an open flame or squirt accelerant on an already-lit grill.

Fireworks Safety: FIREWORKS ARE PROHIBITED IN THE CITY OF ROSENBERG. If you are watching a professional display, always keep a safe distance. If you are in an area where fireworks are permitted, be mindful of children with sparklers - sparklers can burn at higher than 1200° F and the wire remains hot enough to burn skin even after the sparks have ended.

Family Safety: Over 240 million calls are made to 9-1-1 each year. No one ever thinks they will be one of those calls. Be prepared in case you have to, be sure you know how to effectively report an emergency to 9-1-1, and make sure your family can, also. Remember these three things: **give your location; stay on the line; answer the questions.**



Image Committee

June BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS

Landscape:

Gerri Becerra

3008 Turtle Creek Drive

Nadine Michalec

3305 Glenmeadow Drive

Andrew & Veronica Moreno

1304 Walenta Avenue

Steve & Belinda Suarez

2714 Talasek Street

Terry & Pat Turney

4625 Greenwood Drive

2012 Drinking Water Quality Report Now Available



The City of Rosenberg has released its 2012 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report).

The City of Rosenberg water system's drinking water meets or exceeds all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) drinking water requirements.

The report is a summary of the quality of the water provided to customers.

A copy of the report is included with this month's utility bill.

The 2012 Report is also available online at CityofRosenberg.com/Water.

Should you have any questions related to the report, please contact the City of Rosenberg Utilities Department at (832) 595-3582.

Rosenberg INSIDER
June/July 2013

Free Summer Program Expanded to Two Local Elementary Schools

The City of Rosenberg has partnered with Lamar Consolidated Independent School District, the T. W. Davis YMCA and the Fort Bend County Parks and Recreation Department since 2009 to provide a summer camp program serving Rosenberg children.

For 2013, the agencies are proud to announce the expansion of the program to include a second site, effectively doubling the number of children that can attend to 120.

This year, the camps will be held at Taylor Ray and Meyer Elementary Schools, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Thursday, June 10 to August 1.

The camp is free of charge, open to children ages 6 to 12 that live in Rosenberg, and includes lunch daily. Registration and proof of residency are required.

For more information on how your child can participate, contact Ben Anders with the T.W. Davis YMCA at (281) 341-0791.



Rosenberg INSIDER
June/July 2013

New Basketball Court at Sunset Park

City officials and staff joined representatives from the Rosenberg Development Corporation (RDC), the Rosenberg Parks Board, and Lamar Consolidated ISD on Wednesday, May 15, for a ribbon-cutting at the newest addition to Sunset Park.

The new basketball court was funded as part of the RDC's Neighborhood Parks Improvement Plan, and meets a need specified for the Park in the City's Parks Master Plan. Kids and adults around the neighborhood now enjoy the additional recreation space.

Front row: Matt Fielder, Economic Development; Bertha Nell Kelm, Parks Board; Councilor Joe Segura, Parks Board; Mayor Vincent M. Morales, Jr.; John Dorman, Parks Board; Bill Knesek, RDC; Dr. Vera Wehring, Terry High School (THS); and George Zepeda, Parks Board.

Back row: Teresa Bailey, Parks Board; Darren McCarthy, Parks and Recreation Department; Stanley Kucherka, Parks Board; Michael Jackson, THS; Councilor Tom Suter; LaQueisha Dickerson, Lamar Consolidated High School; Jeff Trinker, Economic Development; Janie Warstler, RDC and Parks Board; and Clyde Kiser, THS.



Project Updates

Of the City's 28 adopted Fiscal Year 2013 Capital Projects, 15 will be under construction this summer. It is important for residents to exercise caution in construction areas, as many of the projects involve significant work in public rights-of-way. An update on some of the projects is included below.

Bamore Road Phase III - A continuation of the Bamore Road Improvement Project, the Phase III project contractor will begin construction from north of Southgate to south of Avenue K in June. When complete, this section will consist of a three-lane curb and gutter roadway with improved drainage and concrete sidewalks along the east side of the roadway. The project is anticipated to last approximately one year, and will require intermittent lane closures.

School Sidewalk Project Phase II - Sidewalks in the areas surrounding Jackson, Travis, and Taylor Ray Elementary schools will be rebuilt and/or constructed to improve pedestrian access and safety in adjacent neighborhoods. Sidewalks will be five-feet wide, and will include crosswalks at intersections. Construction will start after school is out, and will be completed before school begins again in the fall. Sections of 3rd Street, Ward, Damon, Cambridge, Avenue K, and Avenue N will be affected.

Animal Control Facility - Construction continues on the City's new Animal Control Facility, which is located immediately adjacent to the current facility on Blume Road. Project completion is anticipated in late summer 2013.

Fire Station No. 3 - Construction also continues on Fire Station No. 3, off of FM 2977. Completion is currently anticipated for late November 2013.

For more information, contact Citizen Relations at (832) 595-3310.



Crews work on the facade of the new Animal Control Facility.



Steel girders for vehicle bays and front entry tower at Fire Station No. 3.

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What is the West Fort Bend Management District?

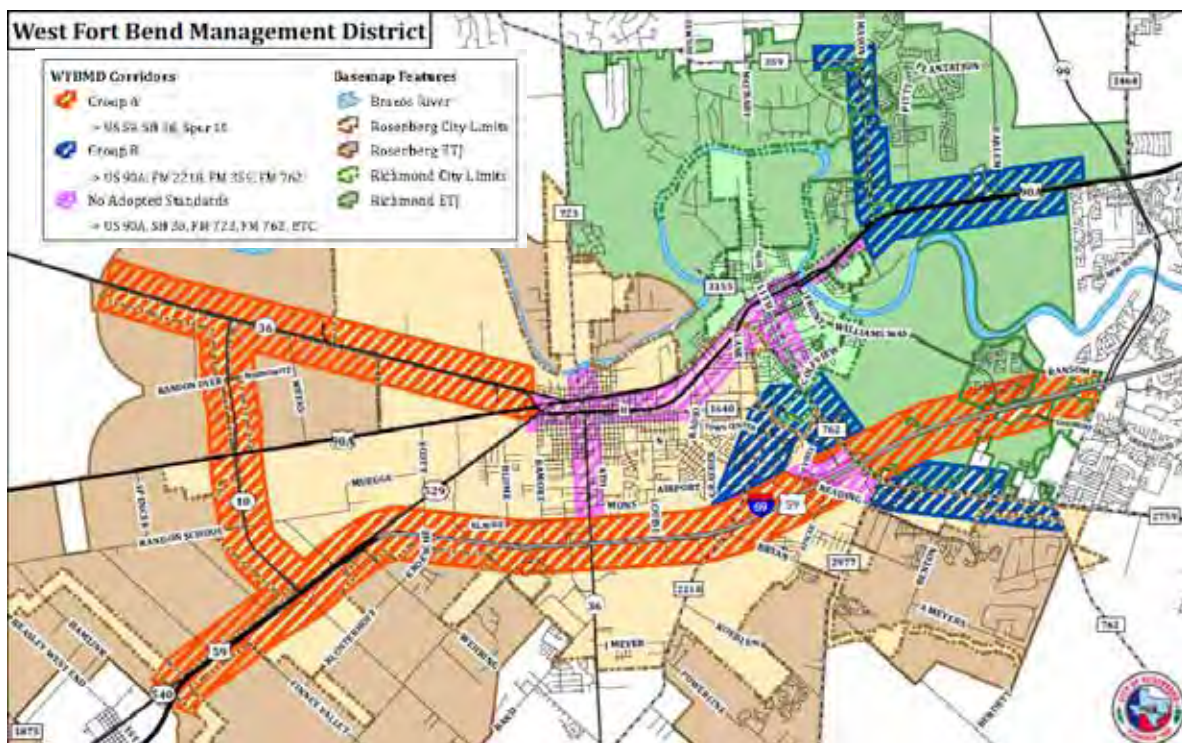
Growth and Fort Bend County go hand in hand. Look at any development map and you will notice that growth is moving west! Western Fort Bend County has the largest percentage of undeveloped land as compared to the rest of the county. With this distinction brings responsibility to ensure that quality development finds its way to our community.

The West Fort Bend Management District, created by the Texas Legislature in 2005, with consent from Richmond and Rosenberg, serves to support both cities in creating a sustainable economic development environment. The District is run by an executive director and a five-member volunteer Board of Directors that meets monthly. The District is currently seeking interested applicants to serve on the Board. Individuals must apply to the District to be considered for appointment. Please contact Rachel Steele, Executive Director, at (281) 344-1701 to request an application. Applications are also available on the District's website.

The West Fort Bend Management District (District) is only the second management district in Fort Bend County. The District boundaries encompass most of the major TxDOT roadways in Richmond-Rosenberg, which include FM 1640, Spur 10, Highway 90A, State Highway 36, FM 2218, FM 762, and FM 359. Within the boundaries of the District and outside of the city limits, the District enforces commercial building standards. These standards apply only to new construction as well as redeveloped buildings or tracts that are commercial, industrial or multi-family projects. More information on these standards can be found on the District's website at www.wfbmd.org.

Aside from its involvement in commercial development, the District also maintains the US 59 and Highway 90A rights-of-way within its boundaries. Once a month, WFBMD crews walk the US 59 rights-of-way from Rabbs Bayou to the FM 762 intersection to collect trash and mow the area. Enhancing the maintenance of this area is a prime goal of the District because the intersection serves as the primary gateway to Rosenberg. Without the District maintenance, the area would be maintained by the Texas Department of Transportation just three times a year. District crews collect approximately 10,000 pounds of trash in the area each month!

The District welcomes the public to their monthly Board meetings, as well as community or student volunteers looking to fulfill service hours. More information can be found at www.wfbmd.org.



Fire Department Promotions and Pinnings

Firefighting has a rich history, which is reflected in the pinning of the firefighter badge. Badge pinning is a proud tradition within fire departments across the country, signifying the introduction of new department members to their duties and welcoming them to their new department. It is also an excellent opportunity to introduce the new firefighters to City officials. Through this tradition, the Rosenberg Fire Department recently recognized seven (7) different firefighters for advancements in their careers.

In anticipation of the opening of Fire Station No. 3 in the fall, and the promotion of Lt. Bill Adams to Captain, the Department recently promoted four (4) Driver Operators to the position of Lieutenant. Promotions are based on qualifications, testing, assessment and interview. The four new Lieutenants, Troy Svatek, Matthew Hunter, Justin White, and Thomas Brown, were pinned at the May 7, 2013 City Council Meeting.

Lt. Svatek began working with the Rosenberg Fire Department in December 1998. He is assigned to B-Shift. Lt. Hunter began his career with Rosenberg in January 2002. Lt. Hunter is assigned to C-Shift. Lt. White joined the Rosenberg Fire Department in January 2007. Lt. White is assigned to C-Shift. Lt. Brown joined the department in January 2008. He is assigned to A-Shift.

On June 18, the Fire Department pinned three (3) new full time firefighters who had completed their probationary period with the department: Firefighter Alexis Acosta, who started his career with the City in May 2012; Firefighter Bradley Ryder who joined the Department in December 2011; and Firefighter Cody Bittner who has served Rosenberg since June 2011.



Left - The four new Lieutenants are pictured with the Rosenberg Fire Department Command Staff: Back row - Chief Wade Goates, Captain Larry Loesch, Lt. Thomas Brown, Captain Adam Carlin, Assistant Chief Darrell Himly; and Front row - Lt. Justin White, Lt. Matthew Hunter, Lt. Troy Svatek, and Captain Bill Adams.



Right - The newly-pinned firefighters are pictured with Command Staff and their loved ones who pinned them at the June 18 meeting: Back row - Chief Goates, Assistant Chief Himly, Captain Loesch, and Captain Adams; and Front row - Firefighter Cody Bittner, Grant Woynowski with Firefighter Bradley Ryder, Firefighter Alexis Acosta; and Mayor Vincent M. Morales, Jr.

Police Department Names Professional Standards Lieutenant

Chief Robert Gracia recently announced the promotion of Brian Baker to Lieutenant in charge of the Rosenberg Police Department Professional Standards Division.

Lt. Baker began his Rosenberg career in November of 2004, was promoted to Sergeant in October 2009, and received the City's *Employee of the Year* award and the Rosenberg Police Officer Association's *Supervisor of the Year* award in 2011.

Lt. Baker is a proven leader and has taken active leadership roles within the Department and community, including being a team leader for the West Fort Bend County Regional SWAT team.

As Professional Standards Lieutenant, Baker is responsible for internal investigations, public information and media relations, department training, and the Public Safety Communications Division (dispatch).



Councilors Salazar, Segura, & Suter Recognized for Service



Outgoing City Council Members Juan Salazar (District 1), Joe Segura (District 2), and Tom Suter (District 4), were honored for their service to the City on Tuesday, May 21, 2013, with a reception before the City Council Meeting.

Tom Suter has served as District 4 representative since 2005. He also served as Mayor Pro Tem from 2010 to 2013. He did not seek reelection.

Joe Segura has served the City as representative for District 2 since 2005. Prior to that, he served in the same role from 1992 to 1999.

Juan Salazar served the City as representative of District 1 from 2009 to 2013.

Each Councilor was presented a plaque by the City, commemorating their service and dedication to the community. Councilors Salazar, Suter, and Segura are pictured with Mayor Vincent M. Morales, Jr.

Next month's INSIDER Newsletter will include a brief introduction of the 2013 - 2015 Rosenberg City Council Members.

Fiscal Year 2014 Budget Process



The City of Rosenberg's fiscal year runs from October 1 through September 30. As the FY2014 Budget process begins, City staff has begun preparing a proposed FY2014 Budget for City Council consideration.

The City Manager will present the proposed FY2014 Budget to City Council at the Tuesday, July 23 City Council Workshop. Then, City Council will review the proposed FY2014 Budget at several subsequent workshops to discuss any questions or revisions.

Citizens may review a copy of the proposed budget in the City Secretary's office by contacting (832) 595-3340.

Two separate public hearings are scheduled for Tuesday, August 20, 2013, and Tuesday, August 27, 2013. Citizens will have the opportunity to ask questions and provide input at the public hearings. Visit www.CityofRosenberg.com/BudgetProcess for more information.

Image Committee

July BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS

Landscape:

Tony & Diana Deleon
3808 Avenue R

Mike & Margo Duswalt
1108 Frances Drive

Santos & Maria Garcia
1812 George Street

Flora Pawlak
1119 Avenue K

Katherine Poncik
1402 Emilee Court

Renovation:

U.S. Washateria
1229 Avenue I



RDC Business Appreciation Reception

Thursday, August 1
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Rosenberg Civic Center

The Rosenberg Development Corporation (RDC) invites you to come enjoy their annual Business Appreciation Reception featuring local restaurants and businesses.

The event is being coordinated by the Central Fort Bend Chamber Alliance.

Rosenberg INSIDER
July/August 2013

State Sets 2013 Sales Tax Holiday

The Texas Legislature has set the dates for this year's annual Sales Tax Holiday as August 9 - 11. These dates are a week earlier than previously scheduled.

The Sales Tax Holiday gives Texas shoppers a break from state and local sales taxes on most clothing, footwear, school supplies and backpacks priced under \$100, saving shoppers up to \$8.25 on every \$100 they spend.

Source: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts



Keep Cool in the Kitchen this Summer

With temperatures in the triple digits, preparing a hot meal for the family could mean that you're causing your air conditioning system to work overtime. Below are a few tips to keep the temperature down in the kitchen, and help out your energy bill!

DON'T COOK, CHILL.

Serve up a salad or sandwiches. Make a cold dish like ceviche or gazpacho.

GIVE THE OVEN THE DAY OFF.

Not only do ovens use considerable energy, but they also add heat to your living area. Instead, use a toaster oven to brown or bake.

GIVE THE STOVE THE DAY OFF.

Use counter top appliances such as a rice cooker, or slow cooker. Because they are insulated, they keep much of the heat they generate contained.

TAKE IT OUTSIDE.

Fire up the grill and enjoy the great outdoors while sharing hotdogs, hamburgers, veggies, fruit, or other items hot off the grill!

Source: Texas Co-op Power

Code Enforcement Officer Named Employee of the Month

Rose Pickens was named City of Rosenberg Employee of the Month for June.



Pickens was nominated for her dedication and professionalism; her positive attitude; and her spirit of fairness and equality. According to her nomination, she is ready and willing to assist when and wherever needed.

When the City adopted a new Ordinance regulating wreckers operating within the City in February of this year, Rose was assigned to assist the Police Department in its implementation. She quickly became a source of reliable information and advice for determining a plan of action, and for conducting efficient inspections.

Thank you, Rose, for setting an example of collaboration and effectiveness!

Reclaimed Water Distribution System Expansion Underway

The City of Rosenberg and Lamar Consolidated Independent School District (LCISD) are working together to install a Reclaimed Water System for irrigation purposes at the B.F. Terry High School athletic fields. The new irrigation system will replace the existing irrigation system which uses potable water.

When completed, the new irrigation system will help the City reduce pumpage of potable groundwater as required by the Fort Bend Subsidence District. The use of reclaimed water will enable the City to earn conversion credits from the Fort Bend Subsidence District which can be used for future requirements to reduce potable groundwater pumpage.

The cost for use of reclaimed water is significantly less than the City's rate for potable water. LCISD will reduce its current costs with the reduced rate for reclaimed water. Due to the requirements of the Fort Bend Subsidence District, the cost for potable water will continue to increase. Therefore, the future cost savings to LCISD will continue to increase.

In addition to installation of a new irrigation system on the B.F. Terry High School campus, the City's contractor will install distribution lines along Airport Avenue and Louise Street. Then the distribution line will be installed under US Highway 59 to connect to the City's Reclaimed Water facility at Seabourne Creek Park.

The B.F. Terry High School project is the City's second reclaimed water system. In 2010, the City installed a reclaimed water system to serve the Sports Complex at Seabourne Creek Park. The use of reclaimed water is drought resistant so it would not be subject to water restrictions during drought conditions.

Contractors have begun work on expansion of the City's Reclaimed Water Distribution System. Purple pipes are being installed to carry the reclaimed water to the B.F. Terry High School Campus for irrigation purposes. The project is anticipated to be completed by October 30, 2013.



Purple reclaimed water pipe lays along Airport Avenue awaiting installation.

ROSENBERG DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



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Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) Presents Draft Subregional Plan (SP)

The Rosenberg Development Corporation (RDC) is collaborating with the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) on a county-wide Subregional Planning Initiative (SPI). The Fort Bend Subregional Plan (SP) is a joint effort between the H-GAC, local stakeholder cities and Fort Bend County to develop a common vision and framework to help the study area successfully manage growth and plan for future growth projected for the region. Fort Bend County is projected to double in population by 2035 to nearly one million. The SP was created as a way to develop locally-conceived plans that identify local transportation goals and define projects and implementation strategies to achieve these goals.

The primary study area of the SP is focused around the seven sponsoring cities in the central and eastern portion of the county. Overall, the study area has been very successful in terms of growth, economic development and quality of life within the region. The plan identifies six key drivers of success for the region: 1. Strong mobility and access to major job centers; 2. High quality residential housing options; 3. Strong economic growth; 4. Enhancement of quality of life and amenities; 5. Excellent school district reputation; and 6. Increasing diversity.

By comparing a needs assessment and future trends impacting the region with the vision and goals, strategic priorities were developed. These were refined into a Strategic Plan Framework for the study area that focuses on three key areas:

1. **Strengthening Activity Centers** - Activity centers serve as the core locations for economic activity and transportation demand and help provide the character of a community. A strategic toolbox to strengthen these centers was developed and applied to each commercial center to develop implementation strategies.

Rosenberg already possesses vibrant activity clusters including Historic Downtown, Brazos Town Center, the Avenue H commercial corridor, and the area at I-69 and SH36. These areas have done well on their own, however the SP provides ideas and strategies to help ensure the viability of these activity centers into the future.

2. **Enhancing Multimodal Transportation Links** - Regional mobility and access to job centers has been a key factor in Fort Bend's success. Future growth will create challenges for existing infrastructure. Stakeholders are also increasingly interested in a more balanced set of transportation choices including transit, walking and biking. The SP develops a set of regional multimodal transportation projects and strategies to manage future congestion issues and provide a more robust set of transportation options for the study area.

Rosenberg possesses several important characteristics to suggest prolonged future residential and commercial growth, including being located at the junction of three major roadway corridors: I-69, US 90A, and SH36. The shift in projected growth west of the Brazos River will necessitate the expansion of existing infrastructure. These improvements will begin in the next several months with the expansion of I-69. Plans currently exist for the widening of SH 36 south of Rosenberg from the Fort Bend County line to Freeport.

3. **Creating Sustainable Neighborhoods that Retain their Value** - Much of the Fort Bend study area was developed as master planned communities in the 1970s and 1980s. The developments, in particular the infrastructure and commercial developments, are reaching a point where reinvestments are required to maintain value. The SP outlines strategies for neighborhoods to address this challenge, as well as to develop new neighborhoods with the characteristics that allow value to be maintained sustainably.

Rosenberg is in the beginning stages of what appears to be a new boom in residential development. Additionally, numerous mature neighborhoods already exist within the City limits. The SP will play a key role in helping the City balance the needs of the newer areas while ensuring more established neighborhoods continue to appreciate in value.

Given the anticipated doubling of the Fort Bend County population to roughly one million in the next twenty years, it is imperative to have tools and plans to assist the inevitable change to occur in a manner that is positive for the community. The Subregional Planning Initiative will help Rosenberg anticipate future demands by allowing the City to approach development in a proactive, rather than reactive, manner.



For more information on the Fort Bend Subregional Plan, visit: http://www.h-gac.com/taq/sub_regional/fort-bend.aspx

The Rosenberg INSIDER is
an official publication of
the City of Rosenberg.

CityofRosenberg.com

August/September 2013

2013 - 2015 Rosenberg City Council



Following the City's May 11 General Election and June 15 Runoff Election, the 2013 - 2015 Rosenberg City Council took their oaths of office on June 4 and July 2, respectively. A brief biography of each elected official follows. For more information, visit: www.CityofRosenberg.com/CityCouncil.

2013 - 2015 Rosenberg City Council, left to right are: District 3 Councilor Dwayne Grigar, At-Large Position 2 Councilor Cynthia McConathy, Mayor Vincent M. Morales, Jr., District 2 Councilor Susan Euton, District 4 Councilor Amanda J. Bolf, District 1 Councilor Jimmie J. Peña, and At-Large Position 1 Councilor William Benton.

Mayor Vincent M. Morales, Jr. was elected Mayor in May 2011, and re-elected in May 2013. Mayor

Morales is the Senior Vice President and co-owner of GreenScape Associates, LLC, a locally based landscape management/design/build firm. Mayor Morales serves on the City's Employee Benefits Committee, the Rosenberg Development Corporation, the Richmond-Rosenberg Local Government Corporation, the Hotel Occupancy Tax Task Force, as the City's representative to the Greater Fort Bend Economic Development Council, and as alternate representative to the Houston-Galveston Area Council.

Councilor William T. "Bill" Benton was elected Councilor-At-Large, Position 1, in June 2011, and re-elected in May 2013. He is self-employed. Councilor Benton serves on the City's Finance/Audit Committee, the City's Professional Services/Engineering Project Review Committee, and the Image Committee.

Councilor Cynthia McConathy was elected Councilor-At-Large, Position 2, in May 2011, and re-elected in May 2013. She is retired from a career in information technology. Councilor McConathy is Mayor Pro Tem and serves on the City's Finance/Audit Committee. She is also the City's representative to the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC).

Councilor Jimmie J. Peña was elected to the office of City Councilor, District 1, in May 2013. He is retired and serves on the City's Employee Benefits Committee, and the Professional Services/Engineering Project Review Committee.

Councilor Susan Euton was elected to the office of City Councilor, District 2, in May 2013. She is the financial manager for Kroll's Marine. From 2009 to 2011, she served as Councilor At-Large Position 1. She currently serves on the Rosenberg Finance/Audit Committee.

Councilor Dwayne Grigar was elected to the office of City Councilor, District 3, in May 2003, and has been consecutively re-elected since then, most recently in May 2013. Grigar works as Fort Bend County Drainage Assistant to the Chief Engineer. Councilor Grigar serves on the City's Professional Services/Engineering Project Review Committee, the Rosenberg Development Corporation, and the Richmond-Rosenberg Local Government Corporation.

Councilor Amanda J. Bolf was elected to the office of City Councilor, District 4, in June 2013. She is a parts/sales/marketing manager for R&D Propeller Service. Councilor Bolf serves on the City's Employee Benefits Committee.

City Council meetings are held the first, third, and fourth Tuesdays of each month at Rosenberg City Hall - 2110 4th Street. Members of the public are encouraged to attend. Agendas are available at CityofRosenberg.com/Agendas.

Rosenberg Municipal Offices will be closed
Monday, September 2, for Labor Day.

Green waste WILL still be collected on Monday.

Rosenberg INSIDER



Newest Addition to Rosenberg Fire Department Fleet

Retired volunteer firefighter Gilbert Guajardo, Fire Chief Wade Goates, Rev. Deborah Prihoda, and Mayor Morales visit about the Rosenberg Fire Department's newest piece of equipment - Engine 3 - a 2013 Pierce Impel Rescue-Pumper. Engine 3 is currently housed at Fire Station No. 2, but will eventually be housed at the City's new Fire Station No. 3.



The need for an additional rescue-pumper truck was identified through the City's Insurance Service Office (ISO) survey, and the addition of the truck allows the Fire Department to provide a greater level of fire service to the Rosenberg community.

Fiscal Year 2014 Budget Process

At several upcoming Council Workshops, City Council will review the Fiscal Year 2014 Proposed Budget as presented to them at the July 23 City Council Workshop. Interested individuals are invited to attend the meetings to learn more about City operations and finance.

In addition to the workshops, two public hearings on the budget have been scheduled for August 20 and August 27, at which members of the public will have the opportunity to provide input.

More information, including a meeting schedule and electronic copy of the Fiscal Year 2014 Proposed Budget, are available at CityofRosenberg.com/BudgetProcess. Copies may also be viewed at the City Secretary's Office.



Are You Up for a Block Party? Mark your Calendars for Oct. 1

Public safety officers from the Rosenberg Police and Fire Departments will join residents and City officials to celebrate National Night Out (NNO) - America's Night Out Against Crime - Tuesday, October 1.

NNO was organized by the National Association of Town Watch in 1984. The evening is designed to heighten awareness of crime and drug prevention; generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime efforts; strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and send a message to criminals letting them know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

Rosenberg's National Night Out will include neighborhood block parties throughout the City and a community event featuring kids' activities, food, and entertainment from 6 to 9 p.m. at Target, 23912 Commercial Drive.

*** Individuals or groups interested in organizing or hosting a neighborhood block party are asked to complete an online registration form available at www.CityofRosenberg.com/NNO, or contact Officer Michael Bradley at (832) 309-1161 by September 16.



Image Committee

August BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS

Landscape:

Suzy Becerra
504 2nd Street

Wayne & Linda Canon
1109 Timberlane

Guillermo & Mayra Gomez
2120 Leaman Avenue

Rogelio & Daisy Torres
903 Magnolia Street

Noe & Irasema Villarreal
3015 Turtle Creek Drive

Save the DATES!



Cultural Arts Day

Saturday, September 21
11 am - 6 pm
Historic Downtown
Rosenberg

Join the Central Fort Bend
Chamber Alliance for this
free event celebrating the
Arts in Downtown!

www.ArtsinRosenberg.org



Prairie Heritage Festival

Saturday, November 2
10 am - 4 pm
Seabourne Creek
Nature Park

Join the Coastal Prairie
Chapter of the Texas Master
Naturalists for a free, fun,
educational, and family-
oriented event to promote
an understanding of what
our region of Texas looked
like before settlers.

www.CoastalPrairie.org

Rosenberg INSIDER
Aug./Sept. 2013



Area Chambers Present Rosenberg State of the City Address

Rosenberg Mayor Vincent M. Morales will present a "State of the City" address on Monday, September 30, at 11:30 a.m. at Safari Texas.

Individual tickets are available for purchase.

The Mayor's address will include an overview of the current state of Rosenberg municipal affairs, including development, capital projects, and other varied topics.

The event is being planned jointly by the Central Fort Bend Chamber Alliance and the Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce.

For more information, or to purchase tickets, visit www.CFBCA.org or www.FortBendChamber.com



Punt, Pass & Kick

Does your child love football? If so, and they're between the ages of six and fifteen, have them join the Parks Department and Rosenberg Lions Club for this year's NFL Punt, Pass & Kick competition!

**Saturday, September 21
9 am**

**Seabourne Creek
Regional Sports Complex**

Contact the Recreation Programs Coordinator at (832) 595-3520 for more information.

**Rosenberg INSIDER
Aug./Sept. 2013**

Public Works Staff Named Employees of the Month



The City's Employee of the Month award recognizes employees that do extraordinary things, including improving customer service to the public or to other City personnel and/or projecting a positive image of the City.

Four employees of the Public Works Department - Juan Reyes, Douglas Gorka, Patrick Jasek, and Darryl Lindemann - were honored with the award for their exceptional cleanup work at the Parks building. The gentlemen went above the call of duty when cleaning up behind a contracted scrap metal pickup. In addition to removing the concrete chunks and other scraps left behind, the work crew took the time and effort necessary to do a complete cleanup of the area, leaving it in much better condition than it has been for several years, according to the employee who nominated them.

A big "thank you" and congratulations goes to these employees for their dedication, and for doing a commendable job!

Pictured with City Manager Jack Hamlett are (left to right): Juan Reyes, Light Equipment Operator; Douglas Gorka, Heavy Equipment Operator; Patrick Jasek, Foreman; and Pat Parma, Public Works Supervisor. Not pictured is Darryl Lindemann, Light Equipment Operator.

Texas Master Naturalist Volunteer Training Course Help Improve Seabourne Creek Nature Park

Would you like to learn more about nature and Texas natural resources? Are you interested in helping ensure that people can enjoy natural Texas for years to come? If so, sign up to join the Coastal Prairie Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist - now accepting applications for its fall training!

The Texas Master Naturalist (TMN) program trains volunteers to help children and adults learn about the natural history of Texas, inspiring them to a new appreciation of their environment and ensuring that others will be able to enjoy the natural Texas for years to come. Volunteers enhance their love of nature with research-based, scientific knowledge. Classes and field work provide training in wildlife and natural resource management focused on the ecosystems of the area. In return, these trained volunteers provide education and outreach in the community, helping people appreciate the natural environment around their homes.



Not only does the TMN program provide a wealth of information to its volunteers regarding good stewardship of our natural environment, but the Coastal Prairie Chapter also works diligently to develop and manage Seabourne Creek Nature Park - the City's premier natural area. The Chapter has worked exhaustively to improve the natural areas of the park, and to identify and improve the four distinct natural habitats that can be found in the park - wetlands, lake, prairie restoration area, and woodlands - for the thousands of species of wildlife, and as a place for recreation, education, and observation for the local population.

The Master Naturalist Program, sponsored by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and Texas Parks and Wildlife, includes more than 40 hours of training. Classes start Saturday, September 7, and will be held at various locations in Fort Bend and Waller Counties on Tuesday evenings, Saturdays and one Thursday. Tuition is \$150 and class size is limited. Applications are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information visit txmn.org/coastal or call (832) 922-0524.



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Fort Bend County Transit Introduces SMART Card for Riders



The Fort Bend County Public Transportation Department is replacing its current paper ticketing system with smart card technology. Similar in size and function to a debit or credit card, passengers will use the SMART Card to pay for rides by swiping it through a scanning device that is being installed on all buses. Card distribution will start in August of 2013.

The SMART Card will provide passengers a more convenient way to pay bus fares. The card will function like a re-loadable gift card. Passengers can determine the amount of money to load onto the card and load additional funds as often as needed. Each time the

card is swiped through the on-board scanning device, the SMART fare will be electronically deducted from the stored value on the SMART Card. Passengers will be able to add value to the SMART Card at existing ticket sales locations or from any computer with internet access.

Fort Bend County began offering public transportation services in June 2005. Transit services include demand response services which are shared ride bus services to locations within Fort Bend County. A reservation is required for the service. Cost is \$1.00 per trip, per person. To schedule a ride call 1-866-751-TRIP (8747).



Fort Bend County also offers commuter park and ride services into the Greenway Plaza, Galleria and Texas Medical Center areas of Houston. Greenway Plaza routes include a connection to Houston Metro services. Texas Medical Center services include stops at the Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Medical Center. Costs range from \$1.00 to \$3.50 per person, per trip. Schedules and stop locations are available at www.FBCTransit.org. No reservation is required for the service, simply be at your preferred park and ride lot location at the scheduled departure time.

Park and Ride lot locations are:

Fairgrounds Park and Ride Lot

Fort Bend County Fairgrounds
4310 SH 36
Rosenberg

AMC Theatre

First Colony Mall
3301 Town Center Blvd. South
Sugar Land

University of Houston

Sugar Land Campus
14000 University Blvd.
Sugar Land

For more information, please contact Fort Bend County Transit at (281) 633-7433 or visit www.FBCTransit.org.

Information courtesy Fort Bend County press release.

Police Department Earns "Recognized" Status

The Rosenberg Police Department (RPD) joined an elite group of Texas law enforcement agencies on July 15 when they became only the 82nd Texas law enforcement agency, out of nearly 2,600, to be designated a "Recognized Law Enforcement Agency" by the Texas Police Chiefs Association (TPCA). A representative from the TPCA made a formal award presentation to the RPD at the August 20th City Council Meeting. The Department will also be recognized at the TPCA annual conference in April.

The Texas Law Enforcement Recognition Program began in 2006, and is awarded to agencies who pass a rigorous evaluation and audit intended to ensure compliance with over 165 best business practices utilized in Texas Law Enforcement. The best practices were developed by Texas law enforcement professionals to assist agencies in the efficient and effective delivery of service and the protection of individuals' rights. They cover all aspects of law enforcement operations including use of force, protection of citizen rights, vehicle pursuits, property and evidence management, and patrol and investigative operations.

Rosenberg Chief of Police Robert Gracia stated,



"We have always prided ourselves in relentlessly pursuing police excellence. The Texas Police Chiefs Association Recognized Law Enforcement Agency process provided us an independent review of our operations, and the designation helps assure Rosenberg citizens that the Rosenberg Police Department conform to recognized best practices in law enforcement. I'm proud of the effort the Department put into the evaluation process, and of the dedication that each of our employees shows every day in protecting our community."

The RPD underwent a lengthy, voluntary process to earn the honor of becoming a "Recognized Law Enforcement Agency." The Department prepared proofs of compliance for each of the Texas Law Enforcement Best Business Practices, and conducted a critical self-review of its policies, procedures, facilities and operations. After completing an internal review, RPD requested an on-site audit and review, conducted July 11 by outside evaluators including trained Chiefs of Police from other agencies around Texas. The evaluators' results were then sent to the Texas Police Chiefs Association's Recognition Committee for final award determination. For more information, visit the Texas Police Chiefs Association website www.TexasPoliceChiefs.org.

Pictured (left to right) at the August 20th City Council Meeting presentation are:

Mayor Vincent M. Morales, Jr.; Assistant Chief of Police Dallis Warren; Lieutenant Aaron Slater; Texas City Chief of Police, and Texas Police Chiefs Association representative, Robert Burby; Rosenberg Chief of Police Robert Gracia; Lieutenant Tracie Dunn; and Lieutenant Wayne Jory.

*Rosenberg Municipal Offices will be closed
Friday, September 27, for Fair Day.*



October 6-12 is Fire Prevention Week!

The 2013 National Fire Prevention Week will be observed October 6-12. Fire Prevention Week was established to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire that lasted two days in 1871, killed more than 250 people and destroyed more than 17,400 structures. Every year since 1922, National Fire Prevention Week has been observed during the week that marks the anniversary of the 1871 fire, with creative efforts to increase public awareness of fire safety. Information is released each year to stress the importance of prevention.

Fire tragedies in our country during the past year should help us all recognize the need to be informed and prepared when it comes to protecting families and property. Don't miss the opportunities offered below by the Rosenberg Fire Department to learn more about fire prevention. This October, the Fire Department will promote the importance of fire safety with this year's national theme, "Prevent Kitchen Fires and Get Cookin' with Fire Safety," with visits to schools and day cares, spreading the fire safety message.

More fires start in the kitchen than in any other part of the home. Two out of every five home fires start in the kitchen. In 2012, 60% of the structure fires responded to by the Rosenberg Fire Department originated in the kitchen. Among the tips firefighters will be emphasizing are:

- Don't leave cooking unattended - stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, broiling, or boiling food.
- If you must leave the room, even for a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- When you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly, stay in the home, and use a timer to remind you.
- If you have young children, use the burners at the back of the stove whenever possible. Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the stove or cook top at all times.
- When cooking, wear clothing with tight fitting sleeves.
- Keep pot holders, oven mitts, wooden utensils, paper and plastic bags, towels, and anything else flammable, away from the stove top.
- Clean up food and grease from burners and stove tops.

In celebration of Fire Prevention Week

ROSENBERG FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, October 10 - 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Fire Station No. 1 @ 1021 4th Street

- Meet Rosenberg Firefighters
- Jaws of Life Demonstration
- Fire Extinguisher Training
- Water Display
- Fire Safety House (interactive display)
- Tour Fire Station

Bring your camera for great photo opportunities with Sparky, the Rosenberg Fire Department mascot!

In addition to Fire Prevention week activities, the Fire Department will also participate in the community National Night Out activities on Tuesday, October 1 (see page. 3) with a Firefighter Obstacle Course for kids to test their firefighter skills. In October, the Department will also be working to help raise awareness of breast cancer by staff trading their typical blue and white uniform shirts and going PINK to honor and support those battling breast cancer.

For more information on National Fire Prevention Week, and this year's theme, "Prevent Kitchen Fires," visit www.FPW.org.



Reproduced from NFPA's Fire Prevention Week website, www.firepreventionweek.org. ©2013 NFPA.

Image Committee

September BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS

Landscape:

**Alvaro Centeno &
Yazmin Bernal**
2902 Pisces Street

Richard & Judi Dehaan
2607 Arcola Court

**Rachel, Sandra, Andrea
& Veronica Horelica**
1500 Allen Street

Roberto & Irene Rosales
1209 Frances Drive

Robert & Marie Wright
5418 Bryan Road

Renovation:

Susan & Fran Born
3433 Avenue R

Ruchi's Mexican Restaurant
6945 Industrial Parkway

ARE YOU REGISTERED TO



To vote in Texas, you must be registered. You're eligible to vote if you: are a United States citizen; are a resident of the county where you submit the application; are at least 18 years old on Election Day; are not a convicted felon; and have not been declared by a court to be either totally or partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote.

To register, simply pick up an application, fill it out, and mail or return it at least 30 days before the election date.

Voter registration applications are available at the Fort Bend County Elections Administrator office located at 4520 Reading Road, Rosenberg.

For more information, or to download an application, visit: www.votexas.org.

Rosenberg INSIDER
Sept./Oct. 2013

Save the DATES!

Punt, Pass & Kick

Saturday, September 21
9 a.m.
Seabourne Creek
Regional Sports Complex
(832) 595-3520

Cultural Arts Day

Saturday, September 21
11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Historic Downtown
Rosenberg
www.ArtsinRosenberg.org

State of the City

Monday, September 30
11:30 a.m.
Safari Texas
Tickets required
www.CFBCA.org or
www.FortBendChamber.com

National Night Out Community Event

Tuesday, October 1
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Target @ Brazos Town Center
www.CityofRosenberg.com/NNO

BOO-berg

Saturday, October 26
10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Seabourne Creek Nature
Park
www.CityofRosenberg.com

Prairie Heritage Festival

Saturday, November 2
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Seabourne Creek
Nature Park
www.CoastalPrairie.org

Rosenberg INSIDER
Sept./Oct. 2013

Sidewalk Improvements to Schools Near Completion



City contractors continue work on the City's sidewalk improvement project which includes improvements to sidewalk infrastructure to improve pedestrian access around Jackson, Taylor Ray and Travis Elementary Schools. Pictures above are before (left), and after (right) photos of Travis Elementary.

"Hunting for Homes" Animal Adoption Event - Donations Needed!



Rosenberg Animal Control will join forces with Fort Bend County and other area animal service agencies for this year's **Hunting for Homes** animal adoption event scheduled for November 2 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds. Pets will be available for adoption for one simple fee, which will include a wellness check, spay/neuter, initial vaccinations, and a microchip.

In the meantime, Rosenberg Animal Control is requesting donations of Frontline for cats and small/medium sized dogs. According to Animal Control Supervisor Jackie Jurasek, *"This has been a horrible season for flea infestation. Our biggest need for this event will be frontline products for cats and dogs. Folks can start donating the Frontline products immediately - any extra will gladly be used on our animals awaiting adoption!"*

Like "Hunting for Homes Animal Adoption Event" on Facebook, or contact Rosenberg Animal Control at (832) 595-3490 for more information.

Police Department Drive Benefits Fort Bend Women's Center



FORT BEND COUNTY WOMEN'S CENTER
Assisting Survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

The Rosenberg Police Department is kicking off a two-week donation drive benefitting the Fort Bend County Women's Center, a non-profit organization assisting survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and their children.

Gently used clothing (women's, men's children's), housewares, dishware, shoes, linens, accessories, jewelry, electronics, sporting goods, toys, luggage, furniture, and washers/dryers are some of the donations needed.* **Items can be dropped off from September 23 through October 4,**

Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. at the Rosenberg Police Department, 2120 4th Street.

Donations help the Center provide a 24-hour crisis hotline, an emergency shelter, rape crisis services, clothing, food, and counseling. Take advantage of this great opportunity and help a worthy cause by cleaning out your closets and making a difference in someone's life!

If you or someone you know is a victim of domestic violence or sexual assault, please call the Center's 24-hour hotline at 281-342-4357 (HELP).

**Large houseware items such as washers, dryers, refrigerators and furniture are also accepted and must be picked up separately at a place of residence or business by calling (832) 274-4542 to schedule pick-ups. All items must be in working condition to be accepted.*

ROSENBERG DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

832.595.3330 • www.RosenbergEcoDev.com



Local Company - Seatex, Ltd. - Produces Exclusive Product for H-E-B

This month's RDC article highlights a relative "newcomer" to the Rosenberg business community - Seatex, Ltd. Since relocating to Rosenberg in 2007, Seatex has experienced gangbuster growth, recently culminating in an exclusive deal with Texas-based H-E-B to produce their Bravo Plus line of detergents. The detergent, featuring a four enzyme equivalent to a popular household name brand formulation, was developed by Seatex, and is totally produced by local companies.

In 2007, Seatex, a recognized industry leader in providing turn-key chemical compounding, relocated from their Houston facility to the former Albis Plastics building in Rosenberg. This was due, in part, to an incentive package provided by the Rosenberg Development Corporation, the City of Rosenberg, and Fort



Bend County. Since that time, Seatex has continued to expand this facility, and others, and increase employment in Rosenberg. Seatex now occupies a combined 510,000 square feet on 57 acres at its four locations, three of which are in Rosenberg.

July 16, 2013, marked an important milestone for Seatex when it held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the launch of the new product line, H-E-B Bravo Plus. City officials joined Seatex and H-E-B representatives at a product launch event held at Seatex's Rosenberg facility.



"Seatex couldn't be more excited to provide H-E-B customers with innovative H-E-B Bravo Plus detergent," said Seatex CEO Jim Nattier. "We feel this partnership represents a powerful union between local Texas companies, and we hope to bring more fantastic products to H-E-B customers in the future." Nattier is pictured above cutting the ribbon with H-E-B officials and Mayor Morales.



Rosenberg Mayor Vincent M. Morales, Jr. , pictured at left, stated, "We are excited to see the continued success of Seatex, which validates our partnership with them. We congratulate them on their success and want to recognize them for continuing to invest in our community and grow the job base. Seatex is a great corporate partner and a prime example of how public-private partnerships can help communities and businesses grow and prosper."

Congratulations, Seatex!

Photos courtesy Seatex, Ltd.

Let's Talk Trash!

The City's solid waste contract has been in effect for just over a year. The contract includes the following weekly residential services:

Mondays



Green/Yard Waste

Green waste (lawn cuttings and tree/bush clippings) are collected by hand every Monday.

Use personal containers or bags, not blue roll-out carts. Bag leaves or small cuttings, and neatly stack longer shrub or tree clippings.

Place everything at the edge of the street for collection.

THIS WEEKLY SERVICE INCLUDES MOST ITEMS THAT WERE PREVIOUSLY ACCEPTED AT THE CITY'S ANNUAL CLEAN UP DAY. Heavy items that do not fit in the roll-out containers (mattresses, household appliances, furniture, etc.) are collected by hand every Tuesday. TVs, tires, hazardous materials, and appliances with Freon are not accepted.

Tuesdays



Bulky Items

The Fort Bend Recycling Center is located at 1200 Blume Road in Rosenberg. Contact them at (281) 633-3301 for information on electronic and hazardous material disposal.

Bulky items should be limited to one or two a week, and placed at the edge of the street for collection.

Wednesdays



Household Waste Recycling

Automated collection of roll-out carts for household waste and recycling occurs every Wednesday. Because pickup is automated (not by hand), only items in the carts will be collected.

Carts should be placed at the edge of the street before 7 a.m., with the front of the lid facing the street and three (3) feet of space between the carts and any other items. Cart lids should be closed.

The recycle cart (green lid with label) is only for recyclables, and is considered contaminated if other non-recyclable items (grass clippings, household trash, etc.) are in the cart. Contaminated recyclable carts will not be serviced.

Contact Citizen Relations at (832) 595-3301 to request cart assistance, or with questions or concerns regarding residential garbage service.

COMMERCIAL COLLECTION & RECYCLING

Commercial establishments should contact City of Rosenberg Customer Service at (832) 595-3400 to set up waste collection services.

Companies interested in implementing commercial recycling programs should contact the City's waste collection provider, Republic Services, directly at (713) 726-7300 to discuss available options, as recycling alternatives can vary greatly depending on the type of business and the waste created.

Water Meters to be Replaced starting in Mid-October

Properties served by 3/4 inch water meters (mostly residential properties) will see their water meters being changed out beginning in mid-October. The meters, installed by Siemens as part of an energy efficiency project completed in 2011, have not met the target accuracy of 98.5% as outlined in Siemens performance contract with the City. Consequently, Siemens will be proactively replacing these meters at no cost to the City.

Project contractors will place door hangers on affected properties to notify them of the work which is anticipated to occur Monday through Saturday. Service outages could last approximately 30 minutes. Questions regarding the replacement project may be directed to Customer Service at (832) 595-3400 or Citizen Relations at (832) 595-3310.

TxDOT One Way Pairs Project

The One-Way Pairs Project is a TxDOT project to improve mobility and safety in Rosenberg by converting sections of Avenue H (US 90A) and Avenue I (FM 1640) from Frost to Louise to one-way sections of roadway. The project will occur within the existing roadway, and improve congestion and safety by reducing the number of intersection points and simplifying signalization cycles. ***The sections of roadway included in the project area currently experience between two-and-a-half and five times the state average crash rate.*** This project is a portion of an overall project that has been on TxDOT's books since the early 2000s, but which due to budgetary constraints, didn't become viable until maintenance funds were recently made available to TxDOT.

TxDOT will incur all costs for engineering and construction of the roadway. The City of Rosenberg's obligations related to the project include relocation of water and sanitary sewer lines, and acquisition of required right-of-way. When the project is complete, the City may be reimbursed \$1.5 million of its costs via Fort Bend County Mobility Bond Funds approved in 2007.

In addition to its normal public input process for projects, TxDOT representatives have made three special presentations to City Council and the general public since February 2013, giving project details, presenting detailed information on safety, traffic studies, counts, and modeling, and designing alternative project options for Council's consideration. To view copies of presentations presented to Rosenberg City Council by TxDOT in July and August 2013, go to CityofRosenberg.com/agendas and select "City Council Meeting Presentations."

Most recently in late August, at the request of City Council, TxDOT representatives presented an alternate to the one-way pairs scenario which would require intersection widening and channelization resulting in a significantly higher impact on the community including an estimated right of way acquisition cost of \$30 million, the disruption and/or complete loss of businesses and properties at certain locations, and concrete raised median channelization throughout the project which could significantly limit the ability to access businesses and neighborhoods along the roadways except at signalized intersections. Not only would this option cost significantly more, and have less of an impact according to TxDOT models on congestion and safety, it would also be a much greater disruption for the community at large.

TxDOT will hold a formal public hearing as part of its final environmental review prior to letting the road construction. Currently, this public hearing is anticipated to be sometime in late 2013, or early 2014. People are encouraged to voice their opinions regarding the project via TxDOT's formal comment process, so that they may be registered and responded to.

Alternate Water Project Rosenberg & Richmond Challenge Subsidence District

The governing bodies of Richmond and Rosenberg each took action at separate meetings in September, to challenge the Fort Bend Subsidence District's (FBSD) amendments to its regulatory plan, specifically, the definition of "alternative water supply." Rosenberg and Richmond must meet FBSD's groundwater conversion mandates, and the actions represent a united effort to ensure that our communities' ultimate alternate water source is the most viable, cost effective solution available.

"The cost of attaining the Fort Bend Subsidence District's mandate for groundwater reduction is phenomenal, and it is our duty to investigate all possible alternate water sources in order to select the most effective, long-term sustainable solution for our communities, while being good stewards of our limited natural resources. The Subsidence District's actions could limit our options for developing a reliable water source for the cities of Rosenberg and Richmond, and Fort Bend County, at the lowest possible cost," stated Rosenberg Mayor Vincent M. Morales, Jr.

At the same meetings, each city also authorized cooperation with Electro Purification, LLC (EP) to perform additional ground water and subsidence modeling. EP is the permit applicant for a well field in the Bluebonnet Groundwater Conservation District being investigated as a possible alternative water supply for the cities. The cities' additional modeling will provide technical data that can be used to scientifically assess the validity of the FBSD's findings from their study, "Effects of the Proposed Electro Purification Wellfield on Water Levels and Land-Surface Subsidence."

Residents Reminded to Exercise Caution with Unsolicited Service Providers

The City of Rosenberg has become aware of mailings offering insurance coverage for water and wastewater line repairs to City utility customers. These offers of coverage are in no way affiliated with the City of Rosenberg - these are independent companies separate from the City's Utility Department.

Some letters request the addressee to provide a credit card number or bank account information - this is never a good idea and in some cases, it could be a scam to obtain your financial information to be used in a fraudulent manner.

Before electing to sign up for any unsolicited service, residents are encouraged to check the company out by researching them with a consumer advocacy group such as the Better Business Bureau.

Individuals may research companies on the Better Business Bureau's website, bbb.org, or by contacting the Better Business Bureau at (713) 868-9500.

State of the City



Mayor Vincent M. Morales, Jr., gave the 2013 "State of the City" address to a capacity crowd of over 600 on Monday, September 30.

The event, put on cooperatively by the Central Fort Bend (CFBC) and Fort Bend (FBCC) chambers of commerce, highlighted the growth and vitality of Rosenberg, and challenges our City faces.

Mayor Morales is pictured with (l to r), Joe Freudenberger, CFBC Chairman; Shanta Kuhl, CFBC President/CEO; Mayor Morales; Keri Schmidt, FBCC President/CEO; and Stewart Jacobson, FBCC Chairman.

Rosenberg INSIDER
Oct./Nov. 2013

Mark your CALENDAR!

BOO-berg

Saturday, October 26
10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
**Seabourne Creek Nature
Park**

www.CityofRosenberg.com

Trunk & Treat

Sunday, October 27
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
**Historic Downtown
Rosenberg**



@Historic Downtown
Rosenberg Division

Hunting for Homes

Saturday, November 2
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
**Fort Bend County
Fairgrounds**



@Hunting for Homes
Animal Adoption Event

Prairie Heritage Festival

Saturday, November 2
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
**Seabourne Creek
Nature Park**

www.CoastalPrairie.org

Gazebo Lighting

Wednesday, December 4
6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.
City Hall

www.CityofRosenberg.com

Christmas in Rosenberg

Saturday, December 7
12 p.m. to 8 p.m.
**Historic Downtown
Rosenberg**

www.CityofRosenberg.com/CinR

Happy Halloween - Be Safe!



Did you know? On average, children are more than twice as likely to be hit by a car and injured or killed on Halloween than on any other day of the year.

Everyone loves a good scare on Halloween, but not when it comes to child safety. There are several easy and effective behaviors that parents can share with kids to help reduce their risk of injury.

- When selecting a costume make sure it is the right size to prevent trips and falls.
- Decorate costumes and bags with reflective tape or stickers and, if possible, choose light colors. Since masks can sometimes obstruct a child's vision, try non-toxic face paint and makeup whenever possible.
- Have kids use glow sticks or flashlights to help them see and be seen by drivers.
- Children under the age of 12 should not be out alone at night without adult supervision. If kids are mature enough to be out without supervision, they should stick to familiar areas that are well lit and trick-or-treat in groups.
- Popular trick-or-treating hours are 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. so be especially alert for kids during those hours.

Have a safe and happy Halloween!

Source: safekids.org

Hunting for Homes Animal Adoption Event

It's never been a better time to find your forever friend!

Rosenberg Animal Control will join forces with Fort Bend County and other area animal service agencies for this year's **Hunting for Homes** animal adoption event scheduled for November 2, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds.

Pets will be available for adoption for one simple fee, which will include a wellness check, spay/neuter, initial vaccinations, and a microchip.

Dogs: \$40 (\$20 for seniors 60+)

Cats: \$20 (\$10 for seniors 60+)

Like "Hunting for Homes Animal Adoption Event" on Facebook, or contact Rosenberg Animal Control at (832) 595-3490 for more information.



Prairie Heritage Festival @ Seabourne Creek Nature Park



Join the Coastal Prairie Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists at their second annual **Prairie Heritage Festival** on Saturday, November 2 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the beautiful Seabourne Creek Nature Park. Nature tours, live animals, performers, kids' crafts, food and drinks, and exhibits make for a great afternoon for all ages!

This fun, educational, family-oriented event promotes an understanding of what our region of Texas looked like before settlers. Participants will learn what they can do to preserve, restore and recreate native habitats. The prairie and other

ecosystems, featuring animals and plants, can be experienced through hands-on activities that are entertaining, kid-centric, engaging and informative!

Best of all - the event is free! Bring your family and friends out to experience nature at its finest in Seabourne Creek Nature Park on Saturday, November 2 - you won't be sorry!

For more information, including a detailed schedule of events and speakers, visit: <http://txmn.org/coastal/signature/prairie-heritage-festival/> or call (281) 633-7042.

Photos courtesy Coastal Prairie Chapter



ROSENBERG DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



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ALDI Announces Rosenberg Distribution Facility and Divisional Headquarters

The City of Rosenberg and the Rosenberg Development Corporation (RDC) are proud to join ALDI, Inc., the nation's leading low price grocer, in announcing Rosenberg as the location of a new 650,000 square foot distribution center and divisional headquarters. Batavia, Illinois-based ALDI is known for offering high quality grocery items at unbeatable prices.

The new ALDI facility will serve the company's emerging Houston market. As of May 2013, ALDI has opened 12 new stores in the Houston area, and plans to grow rapidly in the market. In addition to the new distribution center, ALDI plans to open a new retail store in Rosenberg on Reading Road between FM 2218 and Interstate 69 in the spring of 2014.

The distribution center and divisional headquarters will be located along US Highway 90A, just west of Rude Road, on a tract offered by Tarantino Properties. The tract will provide ALDI prime access to Interstate 69 (US 59). The center is expected to add more than 150 jobs and a capital expenditure investment of more than \$60 million to the local economy. The facility is anticipated to be valued at \$44 million, with an additional \$20 million in taxable inventory. Construction on the facility is anticipated to begin in early 2014, with completion in October 2015. The distribution center and divisional headquarters will officially open for business in early 2016.

"We are pleased to bring our Houston distribution center and divisional headquarters to Rosenberg," said Scott Huska, Denton division vice president for ALDI. "The location of the site is prime real estate for our distribution efforts, and will allow us to offer more grocery shoppers in the Houston area a smarter shopping alternative. We are proud to partner with our neighbors and look forward to continuing a long-term relationship with this community." ALDI considered 30 sites in the Houston region before selecting the Rosenberg site.

The City of Rosenberg City Council approved seventy percent (70%) tax abatement on the building and equipment for 10 years at their September 3 meeting. Fort Bend County also issued a similar tax abatement agreement for the project. In addition to the tax abatements, the RDC approved a \$500,000 reimbursement for infrastructure and development costs once the facility is completed, and agreed to reimburse a portion of sales tax collected on eligible construction materials. According to Rosenberg Economic Development Director, Matt Fielder, "The impact of the new ALDI facility is not limited just to the City of Rosenberg. It will also positively impact the business community at large, Lamar CISD, Fort Bend County, and neighboring communities."

Rosenberg Mayor Vincent M. Morales, Jr., added, "We are excited that ALDI has selected Rosenberg for a distribution center and divisional headquarters. We welcome them to the community, and thank them for their investment in Rosenberg. We look forward to witnessing ALDI's success in Rosenberg and the Houston metropolitan market, and to working with them as a corporate partner in the years ahead."

Initial discussions with ALDI were facilitated by the Greater Houston Partnership in September 2011. The City and RDC worked in conjunction with Fort Bend County Commissioner Richard Morrison, and the Greater Fort Bend Economic Development Council to recruit ALDI. ALDI was represented in the search process by Raymond Walker with the Walker Companies located in Atlanta.



About ALDI

A leader in the grocery retailing industry, ALDI operates more than 1,200 US stores in 32 states, primarily from Kansas to the East Coast. More than 25 million customers each month save up to 50 percent* on their grocery bills, benefiting from the ALDI simple and streamlined approach to retailing. ALDI sells more than 1,400 of the most frequently purchased grocery and household items, primarily under its exclusive brands, which must meet or exceed the national name brands on taste and quality. ALDI is so confident in the quality of its products, the company offers a Double Guarantee: If for any reason a customer is not 100 percent satisfied with any ALDI food product, ALDI will gladly replace the product and refund the purchase price. For more information about ALDI, visit www.aldi.us.

**Based upon a price comparison of comparable products sold at leading national retail grocery stores.*

The Rosenberg INSIDER is
an official publication of
the City of Rosenberg.

CityofRosenberg.com

November/December 2013

Rosenberg INSIDER

Santa Claus is Coming to Town!



Santa and Mrs. Claus have planned two stops in Rosenberg this holiday season. Their first stop will be at the City's annual event to officially kick-off the holidays - the Gazebo Lighting at City Hall on Wednesday, December 4. The jolly couple will make their second appearance in Historic Downtown at Rosenberg's signature holiday festival, Christmas in Rosenberg, on Saturday, December 7.

Gazebo Lighting - Wednesday, December 4 - 6:30 to 8 p.m. Rosenberg City Hall - 2110 4th Street



This year's ***Gazebo Lighting*** will be held Wednesday, December 4, at City Hall, 2110 4th Street, and will run from 6:30 to 8 p.m. The public is encouraged to share in the festivities and help ring in the holidays in Rosenberg.

The ***Gazebo Lighting*** will include treats, art and craft activities, caroling, and honored guests for the evening, Mr. and Mrs. Claus! Parents should bring their camera along for photographs of their children with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Christmas in Rosenberg - Saturday, December 7 - 12 noon to 8 p.m. Historic Downtown Rosenberg

Stroll the streets of historic Rosenberg, capture the holiday spirit and delight in the sights and sounds of ***Christmas in Rosenberg*** on Saturday, December 7, from noon to 8 p.m. Visit Fort Bend County's only cultural district, Historic Downtown Rosenberg, for a delightful evening jam-packed with fun for all ages!

The festive evening event will include holiday entertainment from local community, school and church groups; visits and photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus; gift, craft, and food vendors; visual and performing arts; a children's carnival hosted by the Rosenberg Railroad Museum; and Rosenberg's wonderful downtown merchants, eateries and attractions.

Visit www.CityofRosenberg.com, for more information on either event.



*Rosenberg Municipal Offices will be closed
Thursday, November 28, & Friday, November 29,
for Thanksgiving.*



Municipal Court Week



Mayor Morales is pictured with (left to right): Interim Court Administrator Lucilo Jimenez, Court Clerk Deborah Almazan, and Municipal Court Judge James Baker. Not pictured is Court Clerk Janie Martinez.

At the October 15 City Council Meeting, Mayor Morales presented a proclamation to representatives of the Rosenberg Municipal Court declaring November 4 - 8 "Municipal Court Week" in the City of Rosenberg.

Rosenberg Municipal Court has been part of the City for more than 30 years, and serves as the local justice center for the enforcement of local ordinances and fine-only state offenses that protect the peace and dignity of our community. Municipal Judges and Court personnel pledge to be ever mindful of their impartiality and neutrality, and continually strive to improve the administration of justice through participation in judicial education programs.

Child Safety Seat Inspections



When can I turn my baby's car seat around? Has my child's car seat been recalled? To what age does my child need to be in a safety seat? Why doesn't my car seat stay tight in my car?

If you've asked any of the above questions lately, it's time to have your car seat inspected! Rosenberg is a certified inspection station for Safe Kids of Greater Houston and officers will be available on the following dates, **by appointment only**, to inspect your car seat and teach you how to properly install it in your vehicle.

ROSENBERG INSPECTION STATION DATES

November 5, 2013

January 7, 2014

March 4, 2014

May 6, 2014

Please call (832) 595-3450 for an appointment. Be sure to bring your child, and allow approximately 30 minutes with the officer to learn the proper installation for your vehicle.

Safe Kids operates a number of inspection stations around the Houston area in conjunction with TxDOT and Texas Children's Hospital. For a list of additional inspection stations and events, visit www.safekidsgreaterhouston.org.

Holiday Shopping Safety Tips

The Rosenberg Police Department is preparing for the holiday season by increasing their presence in targeted areas of our community to deter criminals enticed by increased numbers of shoppers and visitors. Through community partnerships and detailed crime-analysis, the RPD strives diligently to lower crime and increase public safety every day of the year.



Don't be a Victim!

- Always be aware of your surroundings
- Keep cash to a minimum – use credit cards
- Keep records of credit card numbers and report theft or compromise immediately
- Don't wear expensive jewelry shopping
- Don't be distracted by talking on a phone or listening to headphones
- Have vehicle keys in hand and alarm button ready **BEFORE** you leave the store
- Continuously scan area while loading children & packages
- Look for & report suspicious people or vehicles
- ALWAYS lock your vehicle
- Don't leave valuables in sight
- If approached by a subject with a weapon – don't argue or resist; your life is worth more than anything...however, if you are being forced into a vehicle with the suspect, **FIGHT BACK!**

**Mark your
CALENDAR!**

Gazebo Lighting

Wednesday, December 4

6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

City Hall

www.CityofRosenberg.com

Christmas in Rosenberg

Saturday, December 7

12 p.m. to 8 p.m.

**Historic Downtown
Rosenberg**

www.CityofRosenberg.com/CinR



NOTICE Christmas Day Garbage Service

Wednesday, December 25, is the regularly-scheduled collection day for automated household waste and recycling roll-out carts.

**ROLL-OUT CARTS FOR
HOUSEHOLD WASTE AND
RECYCLING WILL BE SERVICED
ON CHRISTMAS DAY.**

Be sure to place your carts at the road for pickup by 7 a.m. Wednesday, December 25!

**Items that do not fit in the
containers will be picked
up with bulky item pickup
Tuesday, December 31.**

Roll-out carts will also be serviced as regularly-scheduled on Wednesday, January 1, 2014.

Contact Citizen Relations at (832) 595-3301 for more information.

**Rosenberg INSIDER
Nov./Dec. 2013**

Image Committee

November BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS

Landscape:

Henry & Sonya Sylva
5518 Taylan Lane

Juan & Mirna Valle
1202 Gerona Boulevard

E.P. Compean
Funeral Directors
1223 6th Street

Renovation:

Jimmy Echols
3412-3424 Avenue P

Airport Avenue Recycle Center Closed



The City of Rosenberg's recycling drop off center in the parking lot of the old Civic Center building on Airport Avenue has been closed as of November 4, due to the availability of weekly curbside recycling collection for all Rosenberg residents.

Fort Bend County operates a recycling facility at 1200 Blume Road for items not accepted with residents' weekly automated recycle collection. Please call (281) 633-7581 for more information and hours of operation.

Recycling collection is also available for commercial establishments. Companies interested in implementing commercial recycling programs should contact the City's waste collection provider, Republic Services, directly at (713) 726-7300 to discuss available options, as recycling alternatives can vary greatly depending on the type of business and the waste created.

Rosenberg INSIDER
Nov./Dec. 2013



Excellence in Financial Reporting City Receives 26th Consecutive Financial Reporting Award

The Government Finance Officers Association has awarded the City of Rosenberg a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2012. This marks the twenty-sixth consecutive year the City has received the prestigious award.

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of government accounting and financial reporting. To be eligible for the award, a local government must produce an easily readable and efficiently organized CAFR that satisfies generally accepted accounting principles and applicable legal requirements.

Archives of the City of Rosenberg's adopted budgets and CAFRs are available at: CityofRosenberg.com/Budgets or CityofRosenberg.com/CAFRs.

Rosenberg Primed for Growth Key Demographic and Economic Indicators Presented at State of City Address

The following data was excerpted from the presentation made Monday, September 30, by Rosenberg Mayor Vincent M. Morales, Jr., at the 2013 "State of the City" event put on cooperatively by the Central Fort Bend (CFBC) and Fort Bend (FBCC) chambers of commerce. Keep an eye out in future editions of this newsletter for more information from the "State of the City" about how the City is working to meet the challenges of a growing community including cooperative policing, fire service enhancements, regional partnerships, capital projects and more.

Rosenberg is at the geographic and logistic heart of Fort Bend County. Our city limits and extraterritorial jurisdiction encompass 108 square miles - a vast amount of space, the majority of which is currently undeveloped. Rosenberg offers access to a diverse and affordable workforce, some of the first large tracts of developable land when leaving Houston on Interstate 69, and modern highway, rail and utilities infrastructure. Rosenberg's location, and ease of access, place us in a prime retail trade area.

Since our founding in 1883, Rosenberg's has experienced steady growth centered around commerce and trade. Between 2000 and 2010, Rosenberg's population grew by approximately 30% to nearly 31,000. The housing market has picked back up, and as of September 2013, the City had seen 435 new homes and 676 newly platted lots in 2013. The City has experienced phenomenal growth over the last decade, and the future promises to be no different.

Rosenberg enjoys low unemployment, a diverse tax base, increasing taxable value, strong sales tax revenues, and new and expanded businesses. Between 2009 and 2013, the City added over 1,300 new jobs to our employment base, and the current unemployment rate is lower than both the state and national rates. The City is in good financial standing due to growth in the property tax base and increasing sales tax revenues which make up the largest portion of general fund revenues (43%). Sales tax revenues increased 16% from FY09 to FY12. Rosenberg's total taxable assessed value is split between commercial properties (57%) and residential properties (43%), and has more than doubled in the last ten years to \$1.76 billion in 2012.

Recent business developments include national discount grocer ALDI's selection of Rosenberg as the location of their 650,000 square foot distribution center and divisional headquarters, a public-private partnership to develop the 184-acre deed-restricted Rosenberg Business Park along FM 2218, development of the Reading Road Office Park, continued expansion of Seatex, Ltd., the location of Superior Tank Company on Bamore Road, and the construction of an ALDI retail grocery store on Reading Road (set to open in 2014). Another exciting accolade for the community in the past year is the official designation of the Rosenberg Historic Downtown Cultural District by the Texas Commission on the Arts, which makes Historic Downtown Rosenberg the first state-designated cultural district in Fort Bend County, and one of only 24 in Texas.

The growth of the past decade is just the beginning of what is to come, which means the City will continue to face the challenge of providing the necessary services and infrastructure to accommodate growth and development, all the while balancing the needs of existing residents and businesses and improving aged infrastructure.



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Buy Close By This Holiday Season! *Multiply your Dollars by Keeping Sales Tax Local*

Retail development benefits residents of Rosenberg in multiple ways. It serves as an economic driver, employing over ten thousand people in our community. Retail is also an amenity - it provides shopping opportunities within our City which saves individuals time - and ultimately money - by providing a convenient, local source for goods. Rosenberg is now viewed as a shopping destination, whether by a customer looking for special and unique gifts in the shops in Historic Downtown, or an individual shopping at Brazos Town Center.

When you shop in Rosenberg, you help your community and yourself by keeping your tax dollars local and allowing them to be recirculated and reinvested into projects which benefit the City as a whole. From a municipal perspective, retail shopping benefits the City through the generation of sales tax. This in turn, directly impacts residents of Rosenberg by funding services and infrastructure provided by City government such as police and fire protection, road maintenance and flood control.

In Rosenberg, sales tax collected is distributed as follows: 6.25 cents of every dollar spent goes to the State of Texas, and 2 cents goes to the City of Rosenberg. Of the 2 cents the City receives, 0.5 cent is dedicated to property tax reduction, 0.5 cent is dedicated to economic development projects to create jobs and spur economic activity through the Rosenberg Development Corporation, and the remaining 1 cent is used to fund general fund operations.

Having a vibrant retail sector is an important part of Rosenberg's economic development program because retail businesses provide jobs, generate tax revenue, and improve the quality of life of residents.

FY2013 was an exceptional year for City of Rosenberg sales tax generation, reflecting the fact that Rosenberg has become a regional shopping, dining and entertainment destination. Total receipts for FY2013 are estimated at \$3.4 million, a 10% increase over the prior year. Brazos Town Center continues to be a major sales tax generator for the City, bringing in approximately 28% of the City's total sales tax revenue. With additional shopping and restaurant opportunities opening in the near future, and a continued pattern of growth similar to what the City has experienced over the past decade, we can expect sales tax revenue to remain positive for the foreseeable future.

Sales tax generated in Rosenberg helps fund infrastructure improvements, enhances the quality of life for residents, and improves surroundings in which businesses and residents prosper. Economic development initiatives contribute to a cycle through which locally-spent dollars are collected and reallocated toward projects that improve the community as a whole, thereby improving the likelihood that more dollars will be generated which could then be reinvested.

When you shop and dine in Rosenberg, you help your community and yourself by keeping your tax dollars local and allowing them to be recirculated and reinvested into projects benefitting you, your neighbors, and your places of business.



BUY CLOSE BY this holiday season!
Keep your dollars local,
and help improve Rosenberg!



The Rosenberg INSIDER is
an official publication of
the City of Rosenberg.

CityofRosenberg.com

December 2013 / January 2014

Rosenberg INSIDER

New Animal Control Facility



City officials joined staff, volunteers, and members of the general public at a ribbon cutting and open house on November 19, to celebrate the completion and opening of the City's new animal control facility.

The new facility is located immediately adjacent to the existing Rosenberg Animal Control facility at 1207 Blume Road. The approximately 2,600 square foot facility includes improved areas for animal prep and

care, a designated visitation room for getting to know prospective animals for adoption, and a covered sally port for improved building access and animal transfers. The old facility will be utilized for additional storage, and housing of quarantined animals.

"Our hopes are soaring that this new shelter will help us find even more homes for the homeless animals in our care," said Animal Control Supervisor Jackie Jurasek.



The City broke ground on the project in March 2013. Total cost for the project is approximately \$727,000, which was funded through certificates of obligation and subsidence funds. RWS was the architect for the project, and Bass Construction Company was the general contractor.

The new facility provides space for the City's two animal control officers and an additional staff person in the future, and the building is designed for expansion toward the rear of the property as the need arises. Additionally, the project includes an approximately 2,500 gallon rainwater harvesting tank - a first for the City of Rosenberg.

For more information on Rosenberg Animal Control, please visit www.CityofRosenberg.com/AnimalControl or call (832) 595-3490.



*Rosenberg Municipal Offices will be closed
Wednesday, December 25 for Christmas,
& Wednesday, January 1, for New Year's Day.*



Gracia Named City Manager

At their November 5 meeting, Rosenberg City Council appointed Police Chief and Interim City Manager, Robert Gracia, City Manager effective November 19, 2013.



Gracia began his work with the City of Rosenberg as a Police Dispatcher in 1980, and rose through departmental ranks, earning the rank of Chief of Police in 1988. He was appointed Assistant City Manager for Public Safety in 2003. Gracia has served as Interim City Manager two times previous, and 2013 marked his 25th anniversary as Chief of Police.

"I'm grateful for the opportunity to continue serving the Rosenberg community," stated Gracia. "I look forward to utilizing some of the same successful tools we've implemented in the Police Department, including strategic planning, and investing in people, training, and technology, to provide improved services to our residents and businesses."

"Leadership is paramount to the success of our organization," stated Mayor Vincent M. Morales, Jr. "We're excited to work with Chief Gracia to grow and improve Rosenberg. He is the right individual to lead us through the challenges we currently face. He knows where we've been, and where we can go as a community."

Rosenberg Named One of 50 Safest Cities in Texas



The City of Rosenberg has been ranked twenty-ninth on a list of the fifty safest cities in Texas. SafeWise, a company focused on home security, analyzed data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Crime in the United States report, and coupled it with their own research to create, "a comprehensive list of the top 50 safest cities in Texas, with 20,000 residents or more, as of 2011." As of the 2010 census, there were 132 cities in Texas with populations over 20,000.

"Keeping Rosenberg's crime rate low is part of our Police Department's dedication to proactive policing techniques, policing with the community, and utilizing technology and strengthened relationships with citizens and area businesses to stay ahead of criminals and deter them from activity in Rosenberg," commented Robert Gracia, Chief of Police and Interim City Manager. "Being named one of the 50 safest cities in Texas is exciting, and it also serves to remind us that keeping a community safe requires the collective vigilant actions of many different people, organizations, and groups."

SafeWise's announcement cited Rosenberg's rich history, progressive development, vibrant downtown, the availability of affordable housing, business-friendly atmosphere, convenient access, and "laid back ambience," along with the low crime rate, as reasons Rosenberg is a "fantastic place to relocate to."

"This listing parallels the immense interest we're seeing in Rosenberg as a great place to live and work," Rosenberg Economic Development Director Matt Fielder stated. "Our location, paired with a phenomenal quality of life and pro-business attitude, combine to make Rosenberg a top choice among both residential and commercial developers alike."

"This accolade brings attention to Rosenberg, and the phenomenal quality of life provided our residents and businesses," added Rosenberg Mayor Vincent M. Morales, Jr. "It is exciting to see outside groups acknowledge and recognize the things that make Rosenberg so special."

The full report may be found at: <http://www.safewise.com/blog/safewise-50-safest-cities-texas/>.



Garbage Service NOTICE Christmas & New Year's Day



Wednesday, December 25, is the regularly-scheduled collection day for automated household waste and recycling roll-out carts.

ROLL-OUT CARTS FOR HOUSEHOLD WASTE AND RECYCLING WILL BE SERVICED ON CHRISTMAS DAY.

Be sure to place your carts at the road for pickup by 7 a.m. Wednesday, December 25!

**Items that do not fit in the
containers will be picked
up with bulky item pickup
Tuesday, December 31.**



Wednesday, January 1, is the regularly-scheduled collection day for automated household waste and recycling roll-out carts.

ROLL-OUT CARTS FOR HOUSEHOLD WASTE AND RECYCLING WILL BE SERVICED ON NEW YEAR'S DAY.

Be sure to place your carts at the road for pickup by 7 a.m. Wednesday, January 1!

Contact Citizen Relations at (832) 595-3301 for more information.

**Rosenberg INSIDER
Dec. 2013 / Jan. 2014**



Christmas Tree Pick-Up Guidelines

With the City's weekly green waste collection, Christmas tree disposal has never been easier!

Simply place your tree out at the curb with lighting, decorations, etc. removed, and trees will be disposed of by Republic with green waste service on Mondays.

Citizens may contact Citizen Relations at 832-595-3301 with questions.



Child Safety Seat Inspections

The City of Rosenberg will be providing upcoming opportunities to have your child safety seat inspected to ensure that your precious cargo is riding as safely as possible!

Upcoming Dates:

January 7

March 4

May 6

Please call (832) 595-3450 for an appointment, or visit www.safekidsgreaterhouston.org for other inspection stations in the greater Houston area.

Rosenberg INSIDER
Dec. 2013 / Jan. 2014

Historic Downtown an Integral Part of Rosenberg Cultural District Designation Paves Way for Future Development



Texas Commission on the Arts

State Cultural District

promote and develop Historic Downtown Rosenberg as a shopping, dining, arts, and entertainment destination.

The most recent chapter in the bright history of Historic Downtown is the area's official designation by the Texas Commission on the Arts (TCA) as a recognized state Cultural District. Rosenberg is one of only twenty-four districts across the state, and the only state-designated Cultural District in Fort Bend County. The application for this designation was undertaken by the Historic Downtown Rosenberg Division of the Central Fort Bend Chamber. A delegation of Rosenberg representatives, pictured below, traveled to Austin in mid-September for the official TCA action designating the District. Simultaneous to completing the extensive application, the same group also completed plans for and carried out downtown's first "Tour the Arts in Rosenberg" event to celebrate the arts in Downtown.

Take the time to visit Historic Downtown this holiday season - you won't be sorry!

This is the second article in a series on the presentation made Monday, September 30, by Rosenberg Mayor Vincent M. Morales, Jr., at the 2013 "State of the City" event put on cooperatively by the Central Fort Bend (CFBC) and Fort Bend (FBCC) Chambers of Commerce. Future editions of this newsletter will include additional information including cooperative policing, fire service enhancements, regional partnerships, capital projects and more.

The vibrancy and rejuvenation of our downtown is indicative of the strong entrepreneurial spirit and "can-do" attitude of Rosenberg businesses. None of their recent accomplishments would have been able to be accomplished without a strong, shared vision of what the future of Historic Downtown Rosenberg will look like. The City, through the Economic Development Department, works with businesses and community groups to



Photo courtesy BAC Photography & Design

Warren Appointed Interim Chief of Police

At their November 19 City Council Meeting, Rosenberg City Council unanimously appointed Dallis Warren Interim Police Chief. Until his appointment as Interim Chief, Warren had served as Assistant Chief of the Rosenberg Police Department.

Chief Warren began his career with the City of Rosenberg as a Police Officer in 1979, and has served in a variety of different capacities over the years, including Sergeant, Detective, and Captain. Chief Warren was promoted to Assistant Police Chief in 2002, and has also served as Emergency Management Coordinator since 2004.

"I am excited to have the opportunity to lead the great team we have at the Police Department in our relentless pursuit of excellence," said Chief Warren. "We've made significant strides in policing with the community, and I look forward to building on the remarkable foundation that has been laid."



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Small Business Development



University of Houston Fort Bend County Small Business Development Center

One of the most frequently asked questions the City's Economic Development Department receives is how to start or grow a business. In order to assist these companies, the City works closely with the University of Houston Fort Bend County Small Business Development Center (SBDC), which provides free business consulting and affordable training seminars to small and medium-sized business owners and managers.

They do this utilizing a staff with extensive, practical experience in varied fields, including finance, retail and management. Their programs include assistance with developing business plans, identifying financing options, preparing loan packages, and conducting financial check-ups. In addition, they provide customized training and assistance in other areas, including market research, technology, government procurement, and international commerce.

The local SBDC office is located at 117 Lane Drive, Suite 31, and is headed by Marco Ruiz. It is one of fifteen centers in the SBDC Network serving thirty-two counties. For more information, contact Marco at (281) 341-5027 or Mr Ruiz10@uh.edu, or Jeff Linder at (281) 342-1303 or jblinder@central.uh.edu. Additional information can be found on their website at www.fortbend.sbdcnetwork.net.

City of Rosenberg Vendor Registration

As part of ongoing business retention and development initiatives, the City is pleased to announce the launch of a vendor registration program for area businesses. The City will compile and maintain a vendor list which will be made available to purchasing representatives in all City departments, who can access the list prior to making a purchase or submitting a request for proposal. The City will maintain the database of prospective suppliers for all types of commodities and services normally purchased by the City.

Businesses do not have to be located in the City to be included in the list; however, the list will note those businesses located in the City or those owned in whole or in part by a Rosenberg resident. The database will also note which companies have a historically underutilized business (HUB) certification as classified by the State of Texas. To learn more about HUB certification program, please see the state website, <http://www.window.state.tx.us/procurement/prog/hub/>.

The City of Rosenberg adheres to State purchasing laws and City purchasing policy to procure goods and services. Participation in the vendor registry is voluntary and does not guarantee that included businesses will be contacted by, or receive solicitations from the City of Rosenberg. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the vendor to remain aware of the City's purchasing and contracting opportunities. Opportunities for competitive bid/proposals for the City of Rosenberg are posted on the City's website and printed in local papers as required.

To be listed on the City's vendor list, businesses must register by completing a form available at www.CityofRosenberg.com/vendorlist, or from Economic Development at Rosenberg City Hall. For more information, please contact Economic Development at vendorlist@ci.rosenberg.tx.us, or (832) 595-3330.

City Honors Employees at Annual Awards Banquet "Willie D. McQueen, Jr. Employees of the Year" Named

The City held its 15th annual Employee Awards Luncheon on Wednesday, December 14, 2011, to recognize City employees for their accomplishments over the last year. The awards presentation and luncheon entitled, "You are an Essential Piece," was held at the Rosenberg VFW Hall, and included recognition for one day or less of sick leave used, safety programs, and service awards, culminating in the naming of ten (10) employees as "2011 Willie D. McQueen Jr. Employees of the Year."

The prestigious award, named in honor of Rosenberg Police Sergeant, Willie Daniel McQueen, Jr., after his untimely death in 2005, is designed to recognize employees nominated by their peers for going above and beyond the call of duty in providing services that enrich the City and community. Members of the McQueen family, including Martha McQueen (mother), Brundretta Dawson (sister), Charlexia McQueen (wife), Alexandria McQueen (daughter) and William Taylor (brother-in-law), were honored guests at the luncheon.

The 2011 honorees are pictured below with the McQueen family, Mayor Vincent M. Morales Jr., City Manager Jack Hamlett, and Rosenberg Police Chief Robert Gracia. They include (left to right): Renee McAnally - Animal Control, Angela Fritz - Communications, Kevin Williams - Utilities, Janice Edmonds - Customer Service, Bobby Teichman - Fire Department, Amy Shedd - Police Department, Sergeant Brian Baker - Police Department, and Officer Clifford Bauder - Police Department. Not pictured are Justin White - Fire Department and Fire Chief Kathleen Hutchens.



Employees were recognized for efforts including leadership and mentoring, locating and assisting a missing student, implementing new computer software and extensive training related thereto for the Police Department, completing Fire Station improvements, overseeing significant software conversion process for utility billing, updating operations and procedures for the City's water and wastewater facilities, covering Animal Control single-handedly for an extended period, implementing the new City website and posting necessary documentation for public access, overseeing the City's ISO (Insurance Service Office) rating review, and planning for future Fire Department needs, including a new fire station and truck.

Apply Now for 2012 Citizens Police Academy!

Chief Robert Gracia and the Rosenberg Police Department would like to invite you to attend the 18th Rosenberg Citizens Police Academy. The purpose of the Academy is to provide Rosenberg citizens with a better understanding of the daily operation of the Police Department, through educational sessions about different aspects of law enforcement.



Classes will begin Monday, February 6, 2012, and will be held every Monday evening from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. for 14 weeks. During the course participants will learn about and be exposed to many different areas of law enforcement. Participants will have the opportunity to:

- Ride with an on-duty Patrol Officer
- Witness how emergency calls are received and dispatched
- Experience how Detectives investigate crimes, and
- Observe how Crime Scene Technicians collect and analyze evidence

Join the more than 320 citizens who have graduated from the Rosenberg Citizens Police Academy in years past by completing the application available on the City website - ci.rosenberg.tx.us - and submitting it electronically, or in-person at the Rosenberg Police Department, 2120 4th Street, Rosenberg, Texas, 77471. The deadline for applications is Monday, January 30, 2012.

Please contact Lieutenant Colin Davidson at (832) 595-3726 for further information.

City Employees Honored for Years of Service and Safety

Employees were recognized at the Employee Awards Luncheon for their years of dedicated and safe service to the City of Rosenberg. All recipients are pictured below with Mayor Vincent M. Morales, Jr., and City Manager Jack Hamlett. Service awards were presented in the following categories:



No Loss Time for Sick Leave - Left to right: Felix Charles, Chad Pino, Jeff Schumann, Cliff Bauder, Larry Gobar, Lucilo Jimenez, Randall Leonhardt, Federico Deleon, Colin Davidson, Paul Rodgers, Matthew Brawley, Darren McCarthy, Jonas Castillo, Stephen Clarke, Richard Guerrero, John Mares, Robert Gracia, Shayne Macha, Dallis Warren, Douglas Gorka, Jasmine Roberts, David Salinas. Seated: Kaye Supak, Tonya Palmer, Danielle Delgado, Darwin Dobesh, and Patrick Parma. Not pictured are: Cullen Brady, Sean DeRoch, Jeremy Eder, William Fain, Bryan Leach, Brandon George and Jason Johns.

One Day or Less Sick Leave - Patrick Spillers, Barbara Vick, Kristy McKinney, Paul Mendoza, Sherri Hathorn, Richard Hooper, Linda Cernosek, Jeff Trinker, Daryl Segura, Wade Goates. Not pictured are: Charles Crocker, Michael Walden and Randy Weishiemer.



Ten Year Safety Award - Justin Jurek and Douglas Gorka.



Departmental Safety Award - Fleet Maintenance - Patrick Spillers, Val Martinez, Richard Olson and Frank Rohan with Cyndy Powell.



Five Year Safety Award - John Johnson, Carrol Fajkus, Daryl Segura, David Ramirez, Federico Deleon, George Velasquez, Sr., Larry Loesch, Jasmine Roberts and Kevin Williams. Not pictured are: Philip Burch, Matthew Meek, Brian Carpenter and James Thompson.

Continued on next page...

Image Committee

January BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS

Landscape:

U.S. Washateria
Al Bhimjee
1229 Avenue I

Jorge & Sandra Ancheyta
1204 Ward Street

Renovation:

Hunan Garden
Chinese Restaurant
4601 Avenue H, Suite 7



O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree...

Christmas Tree Pick-Up Guidelines

Now that the holidays are a thing of the past, how can you get rid of your tree?

Rosenberg residents have a couple of options:

Republic Services will collect trees at the curb, preferably on the second garbage day of the week. There are no special provisions for picking up trees; they just need to be placed out at the curb with the garbage. Trees will be disposed of with regular waste by Republic.

Residents desiring a quicker, more "green" approach to tree disposal, may take them to *Living Earth* (281-342- 6113), located at 1700 Hwy 90A East in Richmond. *Living Earth* has not charged for this service in the past, but residents are encouraged to contact them directly at the above number for more information. Trees collected by *Living Earth* are mulched and recycled.

**Citizens may contact
Citizen Relations at
832-595-3301 with questions.**



Continued - City Employees Honored for Years of Service and Safety



Longest-Serving Employees

Karl Zwahr - 34 years
Daryl Hartmann - 33 years
George Velasquez, Sr. - 31 years
Robert Gracia - 31 years
Dallis Warren - 32 years

30 Years of Service

Daryl Schmidt.
Not pictured - William Fain.



25 Years of Service

Linda Cernosek, Santiago Rangel, Hipolito Villarreal, Adam Carlin, Sheri Seymour and Gilbert Flores.
Not pictured is Jacky Bumpers.



20 Years of Service

Jeffrey Johnson and Richard Guerrero.



15 Years of Service

Herman Hernandez and Kaye Supak.
Not pictured is Randy Weishiemer.

10 Years of Service

Keith Leach, Justin Jurek, Sheila Minks and Douglas Gorka.



5 Years of Service

Jasmine Roberts, Daryl Segura, Jonathan White, Sherri Hathorn, Bobby Teichman, Danielle Delgado, Jack Hamlett, Melissa Peña, Luis Garza, Chris Krahn, David Ramirez, Kevin Williams and Carrol Fajkus.
Not pictured are: Philip Burch and John Rivera.

ROSENBERG DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Building Our Future

Imperial Arts Presents Proposal to Create Downtown Cultural District

In a special public meeting held Thursday, December 1, 2011 at Rosenberg City Hall, the Rosenberg Development Corporation (RDC) heard a proposal from Imperial Arts (IA) to make Rosenberg's historic downtown district a destination for arts and culture. If approved as presented, a partnership between RDC and IA would establish the Rosenberg Arts Center by Spring 2012, a restored historic Cole Theater by Fall 2013, and recognition of the historic downtown district as a sanctioned "Cultural District" by the Texas Commission on the Arts by the end of 2013. The RDC Board expressed enthusiasm and interest in moving forward with this proposal, and directed staff to continue to develop specific details related to a formal partnership with IA.

Edward Crowell III, Imperial Arts' Founder and Executive Director said, "This is going to be an exciting journey with lofty goals to be accomplished in a short time period. With the support of the RDC and the City of Rosenberg, and with Imperial Arts' talent and experience, this will become a reality and bring community, commerce and tourism to downtown Rosenberg."

The development plan presented by IA consists of three major phases: first, establishment of the Rosenberg Arts Center in historic downtown, offering a variety of live performances, films, art exhibits, and arts education programming; second, the re-opening of the historic Cole Theater, restored to its historic art deco-style glory, offering major productions of professional opera, theatre, concerts, films, art exhibits, and community events; and third, the designation of historic downtown Rosenberg as a "Cultural District" by the Texas Commission on the Arts – with museums, shops, landmarks, the Rosenberg Arts Center, and the restored Cole Theater as important components of community, commerce, and tourism.

Matt Fielder, Economic Development Director, said, "We're excited about the opportunity to have continued investment in our historic downtown and to preserve the Cole Theatre as a Rosenberg landmark. This partnership promises to bring new opportunities for cultural arts to our community, as well as be a magnet to draw people to Rosenberg from other areas. I believe it will be an important boost to the businesses downtown and on Avenue H."

Imperial Arts is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit professional arts organization, developing and producing the full range of performing arts, visual arts, and arts education in Greater Fort Bend County, as the resident professional arts organization of Fort Bend County since 2008. For more information, go to www.theimperial.org, or contact Edward Crowell III, Executive Director, at ec@theimperial.org or 281.277.7444.

The Rosenberg Development Corporation was established through public referendum as a "Type B" Economic Development Corporation in 1995 and is allocated one-half cent of the City's sales tax proceeds to invest in projects that promote or develop new or expanding business and commerce, create jobs, and improve the quality of life in the community. The RDC Board of Directors meets on the second Thursday of each month. The public is encouraged to attend these meetings. RDC meeting agendas are available on the RDC or City of Rosenberg websites.



Imperial Arts and Rosenberg Development Corporation, Thursday, December 1, 2011, Rosenberg City Hall, Rosenberg, Texas

Pictured (L to R): Councilor Dwayne Grigar; RDC Director Allen Scopel; Mayor Pro Tem Tom Suter; Imperial Arts Visual Arts/Education Director Robyn Miller; Imperial Arts Board Member Nancy Olson; Imperial Arts Founder and Executive Director Edward Crowell III; Rosenberg Mayor Vincent M. Morales, Jr.; RDC Chairperson Bill Knesek; Imperial Arts Board Member Ed Crowell, Jr.; and Imperial Arts Marketing Director Erin Newbrand.



City Receives Notification of Improved ISO Rating

The City of Rosenberg has spent the last year undertaking tasks focused on improving the City's Insurance Service Office Public Protection Class (ISO PPC) rating for the benefit of property owners served by the Rosenberg Fire Department. The ISO PPC rating is utilized by insurance companies to derive property insurance rates.

The City conducted an ISO evaluation, and as part of this, an extensive amount of support data (gathered through the combined efforts of the City of Rosenberg Fire, Utilities, Emergency Communications, Fire Marshal, and Building Official departments) was transferred to an ISO field representative during a visit in July 2011. The ISO survey and assessment process takes 6 to 9 months from the initial ISO site visit until any new rating would become effective.

ISO classifies communities from 1 (the best) to 10 (the worst), based on how they score on the ISO Fire Suppression Rating Schedule, which evaluates system features such as water distribution, fire department equipment and manpower, and fire alarm facilities. ISO field representatives use the schedule to assess a community's fire protection capabilities. Further information regarding the ISO system and how it affects property owners and insurance rates can be found at the Texas Department of Insurance's website: www.tdi.texas.gov/fire/fmppcfaq.html.

The City has recently received notification that, as a result of this survey, effective May 1, 2012, the City's Public Protection Class rating will be improved from four (4) to three (3). This should result in direct insurance savings for property owners. Additionally, an improved (lower) ISO rating can be an extremely valuable economic development tool and in most cases has been shown to positively affect a community's bond rating.

According to Mike Pietsch, the City's expert ISO consultant with over 28 years experience, the City's improved rating of 3 is expected to affect property owners in the following ways:

- Commercial property owners within 5 road miles of a fire station and 1000-feet of a creditable fire hydrant could see a possible 9% reduction in their annual insurance premium (assuming all endorsements and perils remain constant).
- Homeowners within 5 road miles of a fire station and 1000-feet of a creditable fire hydrant could see a possible 2% reduction in their annual insurance premium (assuming all endorsements and perils remain constant).

In Texas, any reduction in insurance rates realized as a result of a community's improved ISO PPC would apply to the homeowner's entire annual premium (not just the fire portion as it does in other states) if all endorsements (perils and property value) remained the same. Detailed information regarding specific anticipated savings percentages based on home composition, etc., is generated and updated by the Texas Department of Insurance and published by the Texas State Fire Marshal's Office. It can be viewed at the web address listed above.

Although the new ISO PPC does not officially go into effect until May 1, residents are encouraged to contact their insurance providers to inquire about the effect of the improved rating on their insurance premiums. According to Mr. Pietsch, whether an insurance agent will admit it or not, all insurance companies use the ISO PPC to establish the base rate in Texas.

Attaining an ISO PPC 2 is critical to homeowners residing in the City of Rosenberg, and the City intends to continue the ISO process in order to make the dramatic improvement from the newly established ISO PPC 3 to an ISO PPC 2. If an ISO PPC of 2 is established, property owners (especially residential) could expect further decreases in insurance premiums. Continued improvements to the City's fire protection capabilities are in the works, including acquisition of a pumper/ladder truck for the Department (anticipated delivery in summer 2012), and construction of a new fire station along FM 2977, which would include additional department personnel.

Watch the INSIDER newsletter for more information in upcoming months regarding the City's improved ISO PPC rating!

Got Warrants!?



As part of the 2012 Great Texas Warrant Round-Up, from Saturday, February 25 through Sunday, March 4, the Rosenberg Municipal Court and Rosenberg Police Department will be combining forces with over 300 law enforcement agencies across the State to search for and arrest anyone with outstanding warrants. Once the Round-Up begins February 25, the Rosenberg Police Department will aggressively target persons on the warrant list. Arrests can occur at any location, including the defendant's home, school, or workplace.

Notices have been mailed to all defendants with warrants pending against them. To avoid arrest, persons with outstanding warrants in one of more of the participating agencies are encouraged to pay all outstanding fines immediately.

Outstanding warrants with the Rosenberg Municipal Court may be paid by credit card either online at <https://www.municipalonlinepayments.com/rosenbergtx> or over the phone by calling 832-595-3450. Defendants may also pay in person at the Rosenberg Municipal Court located at City Hall, 2110 4th Street. Court hours are Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Alternatively, fines may also be paid by mail with a money order or cashier's check. Payments should be made out to "City of Rosenberg" and mailed to Rosenberg Municipal Court, P.O. Box 32, Rosenberg, TX 77471-0032. Warrant(s) will remain in force until payment is received and posted by Rosenberg Municipal Court personnel.

Rosenberg Municipal Court has reported all persons with outstanding warrants to the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) for non-renewal of drivers' licenses. Only full payment of outstanding fines will clear the DPS non-renewal status.

Any inquiries regarding the 2012 Great Texas Warrant Round-Up in Rosenberg should be directed to 832-595-3450.

Rosenberg Water is Safe!

The City would like to assure residents that the City of Rosenberg water supply is safe. The City of Rosenberg has received information that an unaffiliated company has mailed postcards to Rosenberg residents related to "public water sources around our area [that] may not be safe to drink or bathe in."



Rosenberg's water system undergoes stringent testing, and the City provides an annual Consumer Confidence Report (Drinking Water Quality Report) to each and every water customer that details a history of regulated contaminant levels. The current report (for 2010) is also available 24/7 on the City's website (search for "Water Quality Report") or in hard copy at City Hall. Citizens can also request a report to be mailed/emailed to them by calling Citizen Relations at (832) 595-3301. The 2011 report will be distributed with the June utility bills.

Should an incident occur that would compromise the water supply and require customer notification, the City would follow all required notification protocols to ensure public safety. Again, the City of Rosenberg wants to reiterate the fact that the water supply is safe and in compliance with all State and Federal drinking water requirements.

Citizens with questions regarding the water supply are encouraged to contact the City by calling Customer Service at 832-595-3400.

Mark Your Calendar for Springtime Fun at Seabourne Creek Nature Park!



Each year, the Parks & Recreation Department hosts Fort Bend County's largest children's fishing tournament at the lake at Rosenberg's Seabourne Creek Nature Park (3831 Highway 36 South – entrance just past the Civic Center). This year's event is scheduled for Saturday, March 10, from 8 a.m. to noon. Children as young as 4 years old are invited to come out to the lake in beautiful Seabourne Creek Nature Park, where they can fish the four (4) acre, stocked lake. Prizes for Biggest Fish and Most Fish Caught will be awarded in multiple age divisions. Children must be accompanied by their parents to participate, but only the kiddos can fish in the tournament! Save the Date – you won't want to miss this year's **FISHtastic Kids' Fishing Tournament - Saturday, March 10, 2012**, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon.

Additionally, the Parks Department will host the annual **Easter Egg Hunt** at the R.W. Lindsey Gazebo in Seabourne Creek Nature Park on **Saturday, March 31**, at 3 p.m. The "bring your own basket" Easter Egg Hunt is for children ages 4 to 12 and includes thousands of eggs separated into age-specific hunting zones, with the Easter Bunny kicking off the hunt, plus photo opportunities with the Easter Bunny, games, snacks, and prizes. The community event is free and open to the public – don't forget to bring your own Easter basket, your camera, and arrive early for a Rosenberg Egg Hunt you won't want to miss!



Image Committee

February BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS

Landscape:

E.J. & Helen Arnecke
1218 Blackhawk Ridge Ct.

**Felipe & Claudia
Balderrama**
1110 Cotton Gum Lane

Abel Gamino
502 8th Street

Billy & Beverly McMinn
5413 Banner Lane

Mike & Lynn Moses
7606 Lakeshore Point Lane

Renovation:

Papa-Mex Restaurant
1008 Herndon Drive

Storm Sewer Care

Although the drought we've experienced the last year has meant that the City's storm drainage system has remained relatively untaxed, the recent heavy rains the City has experienced have highlighted the need to keep our storm drains clean and free of debris.

As a property owner, there are many quick and easy practices that you can make habits to help ensure the system functions as best it can by keeping debris and pollutants from entering the system. See the "Make Your Home the Solution" brochure included with this newsletter for more details.

Additionally, residents are encouraged to report problems or blockages to the City via Citizen Relations at (832) 595-3301 so they can be investigated and remedied as quickly as possible.

Always remember
"Storm drains connect
to water bodies - Only
rain down the drain!"



Project Updates - Your City Working for You!

There are many projects ongoing in the City, aimed at continually working to provide high-quality services and to improving the quality of life in our community. The following information is intended to provide a brief update on some of the major projects the City is working on.

Blume Road Improvement Project

The City's contractor, Hurtado Construction, continues work on the road widening and drainage improvement project from Spur 529 to Seabourne Creek. At the January 17, 2012 City Council Meeting, additional funds were allocated for the continuation of the project from Seabourne Creek to Klauke Road. Construction is expected to be completed by September 2012.



North Rosenberg Sanitary Sewer Improvements

City Council also approved the filing of an application for continuation of the Northside Sanitary Sewer Improvement Project, a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program intended to address ongoing infrastructure deficiency and alleviate inflow, infiltration, and overcapacity issues in the existing sanitary sewer infrastructure for the northern portion of the City. If approved by Fort Bend County for CDBG funds, Phase VII will address lines in the alleyways between Walnut Street and Avenue E, as well as between Avenue E and Avenue D, from Elm Street to West Street. The project is anticipated to begin in Summer 2012.

Development of Fire Station Number 3

City Council also took action at the January 17 Meeting to allocate funding for the purchase of land, and the future development of Fire Station Number 3, authorizing the City Manager to purchase a two (2)-acre tract of property for the future station adjacent to FM 2977 near the future intersection of August Green Drive in the development just south of the newly-aligned Spacek Road. As part of the purchase agreement, the property developer will construct an access road and intersection with FM 2977, and extend sewer service and storm water facilities to the station site. In addition to the property purchase, staff is working with an architect to develop initial plans for the station and establish a maximum guaranteed construction cost. The new fire station is expected to open next summer (2013).

Purchase of a Pumper/Ladder truck for the Fire Department

City Council authorized the purchase of a Pumper/Ladder fire truck for the Rosenberg Fire Department at the November 15, 2011 City Council Meeting. The truck has been ordered and is being customized specifically for the Rosenberg Fire Department and the City of Rosenberg's needs. Delivery of the completed truck is expected this summer, which should help to further improve the City's ISO rating (see cover article).



Bryan Road Engineering

On January 17, City Council also took the required steps to allocate funding for the initial engineering work on Bryan Road.

Traffic Flow and Safety Along Reading Road and Around Brazos Town Center



The City has been working with TxDOT to improve traffic flow and safety along Reading Road from FM 1640 to FM 2977 and many improvements have recently been completed, including: a four-way stop at the newly-aligned intersection of Spacek Road and Brazos Town Center; channelling to better direct traffic onto US 59 at the three-way stop at Reading Road and the access roads both north and south of the Reading Road overpass; a traffic light at Reading Road and Industrial Boulevard. These improvements, coupled with a traffic/speed limit study to assess the speed limits along Reading Road and Town Center Boulevards, are intended to help improve traffic flow and safety in the entire area. Drivers are encouraged to exercise caution and observe the new speed limit signs, since so many changes have occurred in the very recent past. The new speed limit established along Reading Road from FM 1640 to Spacek Road is 35 miles per hour, and on Reading Road from Spacek Road to FM 2977 is 40 miles per hour. The speed limit along Town Center Boulevard was adjusted to 35 miles per hour from Radio Lane to Vista Drive.

City to Review Election Districts as Result of 2010 Census Data

Rosenberg City Council recently appointed citizen members to an Election District Plan Task Force, the purpose of which is to work with the City's consultant to develop a revised election district plan for the City, based on 2010 Census Data.

The Task Force will meet at regular intervals in meetings open to the public to establish a plan to be presented to City Council for approval. Residents are invited and encouraged to participate in the election district planning process. Election District Plan Task Force meeting agendas will be available on the City's website, and the meetings will be posted on the City calendar at www.ci.rosenberg.tx.us.

Please contact the City Secretary's Office at (832) 595-3340 for further information.

ROSENBERG DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

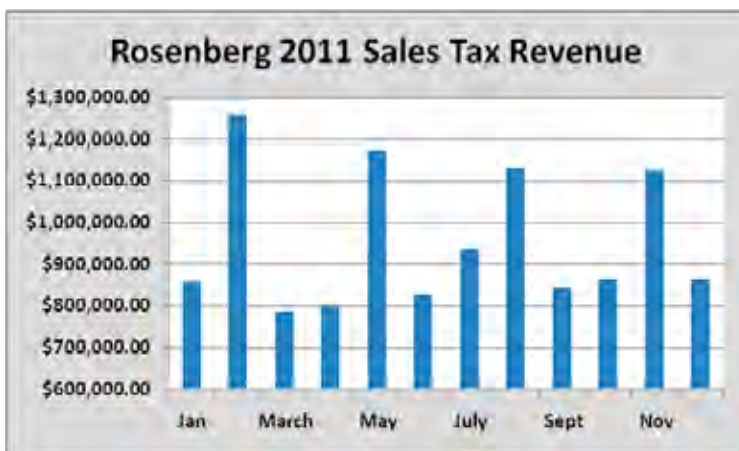
Building Our Future

Sales Tax Update

Although Rosenberg has experienced several lean budget years due to the ongoing economic downturn, the City has been fortunate to have continued to receive stable local sales tax revenue. Of the 8.25 cents of sales tax paid on every dollar of applicable purchases in the City of Rosenberg, 6.25 cents are remitted to the State of Texas. The remaining 2 cents go to the City and of those 2 cents, ½ cent is dedicated to lowering the City's property tax rate; ½ cent is allocated to the Rosenberg Development Corporation for statutorily-allowable projects intended to create jobs and spur economic activity; and the remaining 1 cent is used for general fund operating costs.

Sales tax generated throughout the City helps fund infrastructure improvements, enhances the quality of life for residents, and improves surroundings in which businesses and residents prosper. Economic development initiatives contribute to a cycle through which locally-spent dollars are collected and reallocated toward projects that improve the community as a whole, thereby improving the likelihood that more dollars will be generated which could then be reinvested. When you shop and dine in Rosenberg, you help your community and yourself by keeping your tax dollars local and allowing them to be recirculated and reinvested into projects benefitting you, your neighbors, and your places of business.

During the twelve-month collection period from January 2011 through December 2011, the City of Rosenberg received \$11,469,784 in sales tax receipts (this does not include revenue from other sources such as property taxes or fees). There is a two-month delay in reporting from the State Comptroller's Office, so these collections actually represent taxes for sales made from November 2010 through October 2011.



February 2011 (sales in December 2010) recorded the greatest single month of revenue with \$1,257,840 in collections while March 2011 (January 2011 sales) saw the smallest revenue amount at \$787,032. The graph depicts the months in which the taxes were received (not the month the generating sales were made).

Overall, the average sales tax revenue increase for the 2011 collection period represented a 2.6% increase over the preceding year. In most cases, monthly revenues in 2011 increased over the previous year, except the reported months of May, June and September 2011 (sales in March, April, and July), which each saw lower collections than the previous year. Despite the lingering effects of the economic downturn throughout the nation, retail sales have remained relatively strong within the City of Rosenberg. Additional shopping opportunities

and restaurants are scheduled to open in the near future, exemplifying the consistent growth the City has experienced for the past several years. City officials anticipate sales tax revenue will remain steady in the foreseeable future.

For more information, please contact the City of Rosenberg Economic Development Office.



March/April 2012

Rosenberg INSIDER

Police Department Presents 2011 Uniform Crime Report

As part of its annual report to citizenry, the Rosenberg Police Department (PD) reported its 2011 crime statistics, in accordance with the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program, at the February 7th City Council Meeting. The report highlighted a 1% decrease in reportable crimes from 2010, and a 47% decrease from 1996.

The UCR program uses a statistical tool referred to as the "crime index" which consists of seven serious "Part 1" crimes that present a common enforcement problem to police agencies across the State of Texas. UCR statistics are used to assess the amount and types of these crimes occurring statewide. Crimes reported by the Rosenberg PD are categorized as violent crimes, including murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault, or as property crimes such as burglary, larceny/theft, and motor vehicle theft.

Part 1 crimes reported for Rosenberg in 2011 included:

- Two (2) homicides - a decrease of 50% from 2010 and 33% from 1996.
- Ten (10) reported rapes - a decrease of 50% from 2010, and 1996.
- 15 robberies - a 56% decrease from 34 in 2010, and a 79% decrease from 1996.
- 669 reported assaults - an 8% increase from 2010, and a 30% decrease from 1996.
- 146 reported burglaries - a 17% decrease from 2010, and a 54% decrease from 1996.
- 452 larceny/theft incidences - a 56% decrease from 1996.
- 29 motor vehicle thefts - a 6% decrease from 2010, and a drastic 75% decrease from the 115 cases reported in 1996.

Rosenberg saw an overall decrease in Index Crimes for 2011, including reductions in six (6) of the seven (7) reportable categories since 2010. There were a total of 1,323 reported crimes for 2011, compared to 1,338 crimes reported for 2010. Despite an increase over 2010 in reported assaults, Rosenberg still experienced an overall reduction in Part 1 crimes of 1% from the previous year. Furthermore, in the burglary category, Rosenberg Police cleared 35 of the 146 reported cases (a 24% clearance rate), resulting in 68 arrests – surpassing the national average burglary clearance rate of 13%.

The reported cases in 2011 represent a 47% decrease in reportable crimes since 1996, when 2,512 crimes were reported under the UCR. This decrease has occurred despite the widespread growth of the population and community and the dramatic increase in service calls to the Department. In 1996, the 2,512 reported Part 1 crimes represented 8.4% of the total service calls (29,838), while in 2011, the 1,323 Part 1 crimes represented only 2.5% of the total service calls (53,702).

The decrease in overall Part 1 reportable crimes demonstrates the Rosenberg Police Department's continued commitment to the community and proactive policing techniques, and can be attributed to several factors including professional development, the utilization of technology, and increased visibility along with renewed and strengthened relationships with citizens and area businesses. Police Department personnel training provides skills specific to proactive police work, and officers have made major strides by incorporating technology into their daily operations.

The full 2011 Rosenberg Uniform Crime Report statistics are available via the City's website, ci.rosenberg.tx.us, by searching for "crime report". Questions about the report should be directed to 832-595-3700.



Firefighter Earns Recognition as Employee of the Month

Thomas Brown, a Driver/Operator with the Rosenberg Fire Department, and City employee since 2008, was named February Employee of the Month. Brown was nominated for Employee of the Month by his peers for his desire to create something better for the public, for being a good team player and projecting a positive image of the City of Rosenberg and the Rosenberg Fire Department. He is pictured with Assistant Fire Chief Darrell Himly, City Manager Jack Hamlett, and Fire Chief Kathleen Hutchens.



Thomas spends hours of his off-duty time participating in and livening up events and activities hosted by the Rosenberg Fire Department. When the Fire Department created a new concept for fire prevention by designing, building, and hosting an obstacle course for children, Brown was on the scene with non-stop energy, running through the course and creating a fun-filled and exciting atmosphere for the children who were laughing, running, and thoroughly enjoying themselves in the name of fire prevention education (see picture at left).

Brown also stole the show at a fundraiser hosted by the Fire Department at Texas Roadhouse, when he showed up dressed as "Sparky," the mascot for fire prevention, having his photo taken and dancing with the guests - making the event even more enjoyable.

Congratulations, Thomas, and thank you for your positive contribution to our community!

Annual Easter Egg Hunt Set for March 31!

The Parks and Recreation Department will host the annual **Easter Egg Hunt** at the R.W. Lindsey Gazebo in Seabourne Creek Nature Park on **Saturday, March 31**, at 3 p.m. The "bring your own basket" Easter Egg Hunt is for children ages 4 to 12. The event includes thousands of eggs separated into age-specific hunting zones, with the Easter Bunny kicking off the hunt, plus photo opportunities with the Easter Bunny, games, snacks, and prizes.



The community event is free and open to the public – don't forget to bring your own Easter basket, your camera, and arrive early for a Rosenberg Egg Hunt you won't want to miss!

Maintain Current Rabies Vaccinations for Your Pet



The City's Animal Control Department would like to emphasize the importance of annual rabies vaccinations for family pets. The Department of State Health Services is predicting an active skunk rabies season, and the spread of rabies is more likely to happen as the particular carrying population (in this case, skunks) increases, increasing other animals' probability of coming in contact with them. When immunized regularly, a fully vaccinated dog or cat is unlikely to become infected or to transmit rabies.

It is not unusual to see various species of wildlife within the perimeters of our City, and cohabitation is usually amicable. Nonetheless, there is always the danger of an unwelcome animal with rabies invading our properties. In a recent case in the Cambridge Village subdivision, a skunk that had entered the back yard of a resident and been killed by the owners' dogs was confirmed rabid. Although this is not typical wildlife behavior, it can and does happen.

Rabies vaccinations must be kept current and registered annually with the City. When the rabies vaccination is given annually to dogs and cats as required, it is very effective. To ensure the safety of your animals, and help eliminate the risk of a painful and possibly deadly infection, be sure they are vaccinated yearly. Residents should also report any wildlife acting abnormally immediately to Animal Control by calling (832) 595-3490 during regular office hours, or Rosenberg Police Dispatch at (832) 595-3700 after hours.

For further information on rabies, City requirements, and how to best protect your pet, please contact Rosenberg Animal Control.

New, Improved Rates for Civic Center

Rosenberg City Council has approved a new rate and community use structure for the Rosenberg Civic Center (3825 Highway 36 South), to help make the Center more client friendly.

The new rate structure goes into effect March 5, 2012, and is designed to encourage use of the Civic Center through streamlined, all-inclusive fees, more competitive rates, a client-friendly deposit and booking structure, and less stringent community use provisions.

Check out the Civic Center for your next family event, birthday party, business meeting, or celebration!

Rates and booking information are available on line at ci.rosenberg.tx.us (search for "Civic Center"), by calling (832) 595-3520 during business hours, or by stopping by the Civic Center.

Come see us - we look forward to discussing how we can be of service to you as our guest in the future!

Image Committee

March BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS

Landscape:

Blake & Denise Hook
6514 Archer Ranch Lane

Dr. Magdalena Jones
1603 Helmsley Drive

Cody & Rachel Revel
5603 Walnut Glen Lane

Edwin & Lisa Stanfield
5519 Walnut Glen Lane

John & Karen Trevino
1605 Manor Drive

Renovation:

Transito & Aminta Guevara
3503 Avenue P



STOP! Don't Pour Your Grease Down the Drain...

Cooking oil, grease and food debris poured into the kitchen sink drain can accumulate in the pipes and cause back-ups in the household and public sewer system. Sewer lines that become coated with solidified grease have less capacity to convey wastewater.

The following methods can be used to properly dispose of cooking oils and grease:

- Pour the oil or grease into a metal collection container with a tight fitting lid. Allow the grease to cool and solidify and then dispose of it with household garbage.
- Scrape food scraps into the trash, not into the sink drain or disposal.
- Wipe pots, pans, and dishes with dry paper towels before rinsing or washing them.
- Dispose of the paper towels in the trash bin. The use of cloth towels will transfer grease to the washing machine and collect in the sewer lines.
- Rinse dishes and cooking pans with cold water before putting them into the dishwasher. Hot water dissolves the fats and greases and washes into the sewer pipes. Later on, the hot water will cool and the grease will clog the pipes.
- If you have a lot of oil to dispose of, use clay cat litter. Mix the litter, a little at a time, into the oil. When all the oil has been absorbed, pour the cat litter into a trash bag and seal the bag. Dispose of it in your regular trash.
- You can also contact your local recycling center to inquire if they accept used household grease.

Following these guidelines will help keep maintenance costs down for all residents, and will ensure better functioning of your household plumbing and City lines.

Source: Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)



Online Bill Pay Now Available for City Utility Bills!

The City of Rosenberg is excited to announce online account services now available to all utility customers. Customers are encouraged to register for the service by visiting the City's website, ci.rosenberg.tx.us, and selecting the "Online Bill Pay" icon from the right hand side of the home page. There is no charge to register for the service, and it is very easy to do so. The only things required to register are a personal email address and the utility account number (e.g. 123456-000), available on customers' monthly bills.



The online service is accessible 24 hours a day, allowing customers to view account information and make payments at their convenience. Online payments can be made either by credit card (Visa, Master Card, or Discover) or by eCheck via the online service. A processing fee of \$2.00 will be charged for each transaction. For registration assistance, or questions about online services, please call (832) 595-3400.

In addition to the new online payment option, the following utility bill payment options will continue to be available to customers:

- Pay in person at the Customer Service windows at City Hall from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm Monday-Thursday and from 8 am to 5 pm on Friday;
- Drop non-cash utility payments in the drop box located on the south side of City Hall (*please note: the drop box is closed two days a month on the day of utility disconnections*);
- Call in a credit card phone payment (Visa, Master Card or Discover) at 832-595-3400 during regular business hours (a 5% processing fee will be applied to over-the-phone credit card transactions); or
- Draft the payment automatically from your bank account on the due date (no processing fee charged).

Please contact Customer Service at (832) 595-3400 for further information on bill payment options.

Volunteers Needed for Spring Beautification Project at Sunset Park

Keep Rosenberg Beautiful (KRB) is enthusiastically joining a nationwide effort involving more than 2.3 million volunteers in more than 15,000 communities to participate in cleanup, beautification, and community improvement activities as part of the Great American Cleanup, the nation's largest cleanup, beautification and community improvement program headed up by Keep America Beautiful.

Keep Rosenberg Beautiful is organizing a local event to help beautify and clean up Rosenberg's Sunset Park (2017 Mulcahy Street). The event is endorsed by Keep Texas Beautiful, whose mission is to engage Texans to take responsibility for improving their community through litter prevention, beautification, and waste reduction. Rosenberg residents and businesses are invited and encouraged to participate in the **KRB Landscaping Project** on **Saturday, April 28, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.**



The event, organized by Rosenberg's Image Committee and Keep Rosenberg Beautiful, will include an overall litter cleanup of the Park, landscaping around the entrance sign of Sunset Park (pictured above right), and planting of the bed near the park pergola (pictured below left). Volunteers will be utilized to prepare the beds before the April 28 event. Volunteers are being requested for the Saturday, April 28 event to assist with planting of the beds, and also for an overall litter cleanup of the Park that morning. All necessary supplies will be provided.



For further information, or to volunteer to participate in the Spring Landscaping Project at Sunset Park on Saturday, April 28, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, please contact Barbara Vick, Volunteer Coordinator, at (832) 595-3323, or barbarav@ci.rosenberg.tx.us.

ROSENBERG DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Building Our Future

RDC Approves Agreement With Imperial Arts

The Rosenberg Development Corporation (RDC) voted to enter into a performance agreement with Imperial Performing Arts, Inc. (IPA) to develop a performing and cultural arts program in Historic Downtown Rosenberg at its February 8, 2012 meeting.

At the same meeting, the RDC held a public hearing on the project declaration for the project expenditure. The public hearing was part of a sixty (60) day waiting period before the RDC is allowed to expend funds on the project that began when notice of the hearing was published on January 19. The meeting included public comments from nine (9) individuals, all of which were supportive of the initiative and its potential to serve as a catalyst for further development and growth in culture, business, and tourism in Rosenberg.

Imperial Arts was founded as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit professional arts organization. Imperial Arts has developed and produced a full range of performing and visual arts, and arts education in Greater Fort Bend County since 2008. For the last several years, they have operated out of Sugar Land Town Square; under their agreement with the RDC, Imperial Arts will begin productions in Rosenberg in the Fall of 2012.

Under the agreement, the RDC will provide \$250,000 a year for two years to Imperial Arts (\$100,000 in first year for Arts Center renovation, and \$150,000 to underwrite events; and \$100,000 in second year for Cole renovation, and \$150,000 to underwrite events). The agreement calls for Imperial Arts to renovate and open the building at 823 3rd Street (northeast corner of Avenue G and 3rd Street) by September 30, 2012. This building will become Imperial's Arts Center in Rosenberg, and be used for cultural and performing arts events. The agreement also calls for Imperial Arts to restore the Cole Theatre (930 3rd St.) and open it for public performances by December 31, 2014.

In addition to the renovation of the Arts Center and Cole Theatre, the performance agreement requires that a performing arts program be established to provide a minimum of sixty (60) public ticketed events per year in the City of Rosenberg and at least twelve (12) community events per year for a period of ten (10) years from the date of the opening of the Arts Center in Rosenberg. Furthermore, IPA has agreed to coordinate the filing for a Cultural District designation for Historic Downtown Rosenberg from the Texas Commission for the Arts.



Cole Theatre Façade (930 3rd Street)
Historic Downtown Rosenberg

Rosenberg Mayor Vincent M. Morales, Jr. stated, "The passionate support this partnership has enjoyed from the community so far exemplifies the importance of cultural tourism to our community, especially historic downtown. The addition of a formalized cultural district and professional performing arts company to the plethora of diverse shops and leisure opportunities already available in our unique downtown, provides a win-win for everyone involved, and serves as a further catalyst for Rosenberg's continued growth and vitality. We look to the development of the Arts Center and the Cole Theatre as yet another way to introduce new people and businesses to Rosenberg, and all our great downtown has to offer, as well as to the development of a professional performing arts program to enhance the quality of life of our residents, and visitors alike."

For more information on the RDC performance agreement with Imperial Arts, please contact the Economic Development Department at 832-595-3330.



832.595.3330 • www.rosenbergcodev.com

Residents/Businesses Encouraged to Contact Insurance Companies Regarding Improved Rosenberg ISO Rating

The City has received notification that effective May 1, 2012, the City's Public Protection Class rating will be improved from four (4) to three (3). ***This should result in direct insurance savings for property owners. Residents are encouraged to contact their insurance providers to inquire about the effect of the improved rating on their insurance premiums.***

The City of Rosenberg has spent the last year undertaking tasks focused on improving the City's Insurance Service Office Public Protection Class (ISO PPC) rating for the benefit of property owners served by the Rosenberg Fire Department. The ISO PPC rating is utilized by insurance companies to derive property insurance rates. ISO classifies communities from 1 (the best) to 10 (the worst), based on how they score on the ISO Fire Suppression Rating Schedule, which evaluates system features such as water distribution, fire department equipment and manpower, and fire alarm facilities. ISO field representatives use the schedule to assess a community's fire protection capabilities.

The City's improved rating of 3 is expected to affect property owners in the following ways:

- **Commercial property** owners within 5 road miles of a fire station and 1000-feet of a creditable fire hydrant could see a ***possible 9% reduction in their annual insurance premium*** (assuming all endorsements and perils remain constant).
- **Homeowners** within 5 road miles of a fire station and 1000-feet of a creditable fire hydrant could see a ***possible 2% reduction in their annual insurance premium*** (assuming all endorsements and perils remain constant).

In Texas, any reduction in insurance rates realized as a result of a community's improved ISO PPC would apply to the property owner's entire annual premium (not just the fire portion as it does in other states) if all endorsements (perils and property value) remained the same. Detailed information regarding specific anticipated savings percentages based on home composition, etc., is generated and updated by the Texas Department of Insurance and published by the Texas State Fire Marshal's Office. It can be viewed at ***www.tdi.texas.gov/fire/fmppcfaq.html***.

Attainment of an ISO PPC 2 is critical to homeowners residing in the City of Rosenberg, and the City is continuing the ISO process in order to make the dramatic improvement from the newly established ISO PPC 3 to an ISO PPC 2. If an ISO PPC of 2 is established, property owners (especially residential) could expect even further decreases in insurance premiums. Continued improvements to the City's fire protection capabilities are in the works, including acquisition of a pumper/ladder truck for the Department (anticipated delivery in summer 2012), and construction of a new fire station along FM 2977, which would include additional department personnel.

For further information, including direct links to the Texas Department of Insurance tables detailing property insurance rates as factors of ISO PPC ratings, please visit the City's website and search for "ISO". Residents may also contact the Rosenberg Fire Department at (832) 595-3600.

Keep Rosenberg Beautiful Project Slated for Sunset Park April 28th

Rosenberg residents and businesses are invited and encouraged to participate in the **Keep Rosenberg Beautiful (KRB) Landscaping Project** on **Saturday, April 28**, from **9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon**. Volunteers are being requested for the Saturday, April 28 event to assist with planting of the beds, and also for an overall litter cleanup of the Park that morning. All necessary supplies will be provided.

Keep Rosenberg Beautiful, a subsidiary of Rosenberg's Image Committee, is hosting a local event to help beautify and clean up Rosenberg's Sunset Park located at 2017 Mulcahy Street. The event is endorsed by Keep Texas Beautiful, whose mission is to engage Texans to take responsibility for improving their community through litter prevention, beautification, and waste reduction.

Keep Rosenberg Beautiful achieved affiliate status with Keep Texas Beautiful in October of 2011. Public Works crew members Miguel Nieto and Isidro Najera recently installed the affiliate sign on the Rosenberg City Limits sign along US 59 South just past the FM 762 overpass.

For further information, or to volunteer to participate in the Spring Landscaping Project, please contact Barbara Vick, Volunteer Coordinator, at (832) 595-3323, or barbarav@ci.rosenberg.tx.us.



City Offices to Close for Memorial Day



Rosenberg municipal facilities will be closed on Monday, May 28, 2012, in observance of Memorial Day.

Solid waste **WILL** be collected as regularly-scheduled.

Citizens may contact the Citizen Relations Coordinator at 832-595-3301 for further information regarding waste collection.

April is National Animal Cruelty Prevention Month

April has been designated by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) as Animal Cruelty Prevention Month. It is not easy to make conclusions about an animal that might be abused; however, awareness can help us know when to make a call to report a possible situation or unhealthy environment for animals.

The following are some signs and symptoms offered by the ASPCA to help recognize possible cruelty to animals.

- Tick or flea infestations, which – if left untreated – can lead to an animal's death.
- Wounds on the body
- Patches of missing hair
- Extremely thin animals that may be starving
- Limping or inability to stand or walk normally
- An owner striking or otherwise physically abusing an animal
- Animals repeatedly left alone without food and water, often chained up in a yard
- Animals kept outside without shelter in extreme weather conditions
- Animals who cower in fear or act aggressively when approached by their owners
- A collar so tight it has caused a neck wound
- Open wounds or signs of multiple healed wounds
- Untreated skin conditions with loss of hair, scaly skin, bumps or rashes

As a concerned citizen, if you see any of these signals of suspected animal abuse, don't keep it to yourself. Report it to Rosenberg Animal Control by calling 832-595-3490. By reporting a concern (you can do so anonymously) you can help ensure that animals in need are rescued and that perpetrators of animal cruelty are brought to justice.



Source: www.aspca.org

Image Committee

April BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS

Landscape:

**Laurie Makeever &
Teresa Daniels**
1026 Lindsey Drive

Joe & Doris Gurecky
1820 Allen Street

Agnes Prasatik
1611 Mulcahy Street

**Richard & Charlotte
Robbins**
1115 Sally Anne Drive

Charlie & Elaine Westfahl
3515 Avenue R

Renovation:

David & Jana Cavazos
1309 4th Street

Magdalena Flores
1216 8th Street

City Encourages Residents to be Diligent

The City of Rosenberg has received notification that an unaffiliated company, American Water Resources of Texas, will be mailing letters to Rosenberg residents related to "water and sewer line protection programs".

The City is in no way affiliated with the company or programs identified in the letter.

Citizens with questions regarding responsibilities related to water and sewer lines are encouraged to contact the City by calling Customer Service at (832) 595-3400.





Protecting your Family from Mosquitoes

Spring is officially here – and mosquitoes are not far behind! Thanks to the recent rain we have received, it's time again to remind residents of steps that can be taken by individuals to reduce the risk of exposure to mosquitoes and the viruses they can carry.

Mosquito spraying within the Rosenberg City Limits began March 21. According to Health and Human Services, however, residents should not rely solely on mosquito spraying by the County or Cities. The spray may not reach backyard areas because of fences, homes, and other barriers. Residents can take responsibility in and around their own home by following the 4 D's:

- **DRAIN** standing water in your yard and neighborhood such as empty flowerpots, clogged rain gutters, non-aerated ponds, broken hot tubs or fountains, and puddles from over watering. Mosquitoes love to breed in stagnant water.
- **DUSK/DAWN** is when infected mosquitoes are most active. Try your best to stay indoors.
- **DRESS** in long sleeves and pants when you're outside and mosquitoes are active. For extra protection, spray thin clothing with repellent.
- **DEET** (n, n-diethyl-m-toluamide) is an ingredient to look for in your insect repellent. Follow label instructions, and always wear repellent when outdoors. Consider using sprays made for yards and other outdoor areas.

It is important to remember that spraying done by the City is an attempt to control the mosquito population, but it is impossible to eradicate mosquitoes. It takes everyone doing their part in their own neighborhoods to keep the pests to a minimum.

For information regarding the City's program, contact Citizen Relations at 832-595-3301.

Visit cdc.gov for additional information on the prevention of the West Nile Virus.

Celebrate Earth Day Sunday, April 22

On April 22, more than one billion people around the globe will participate in Earth Day 2012 and help Mobilize the Earth™. People of all nationalities and backgrounds will stand united for a sustainable future and call upon individuals, organizations, and governments to do their part.

A part of protecting our planet involves efforts to reduce fuel emissions from motor vehicles. The following tips are offered by Drive Clean Across Texas, to encourage citizens to maintain vehicles for the benefit of the environment, and to economize fuel consumption.



CLEAN AIR TIPS FOR YOUR MOTOR VEHICLE

1. **Keep your vehicle maintained properly.** Your owner's manual will tell you how often you should change your oil and air filters, service your air conditioner and get regular engine check-ups. You'll not only be doing the air a favor, your vehicle will run better and you'll save money by getting better gas mileage.
2. **Check your tire pressure at least once a month.** Tires typically lose about a pound of air pressure every month. The label located on the edge of the driver's door will tell you what tire pressure the manufacturer recommends for your vehicle. When you check your tire pressure, make sure the tires are cold, meaning you haven't driven your vehicle for a couple of hours.
3. **Keep your tires properly inflated.** So what does tire pressure have to do with air quality? When your tires are low, they produce more drag. More drag makes your engine work harder, and that produces more emissions. More emissions equal more air pollution. Bottom line: the right amount of air inside your tires is good for the air outside your tires.
4. **Change your oil and air filters regularly.** When your vehicle's filters are very dirty, they can't do the job they're intended to do. That's bad for your engine, and it doesn't do our air any good either. Replacing a clogged air filter can improve your vehicle's gas mileage by as much as 10 percent.
5. **Use multi-grade "energy-conserving" oil.** Every 3,000 miles (or however often you change your oil), consider multi-grade motor oil labeled "energy conserving." Special additives in the oil help reduce harmful emissions and can improve your vehicle's fuel economy by 5 to 10 percent.
6. **Stop pumping gas at the "click."** When you're filling up, don't top off the tank. Fumes escaping from the neck of the tank contribute to air pollution. Be sure to tighten your vehicle's gas cap all the way, too. A loose gas cap allows gasoline to evaporate and can cost you up to 30 gallons of gas a year.
7. **Get fuel when it's cool.** Fill up later in the evening when it's not so hot. High temperatures cook gas fumes and turn them into nasty ground-level ozone that's especially hard on the lungs of children and older folks.
8. **Travel light.** Carrying around an extra 50 or 100 pounds in your car or truck makes your engine work harder and use more gas. Reduce drag and reduce emissions by removing items from your vehicle that you don't really need to carry around.

For further information, visit: drivecleanacrosstexas.org and/or earthday.org/2012.

Tired of Unwanted Phone Directories?



Most people receive regular delivery of updated phone books; however, many end up in the garbage because so much information is now available on the Internet. You can help protect the environment by eliminating delivery of unwanted phone books. About 540 million telephone directories are distributed each year - enough to entirely circle the earth 4.28 times!

It is now possible to register online to opt out of phone book delivery or control the directories that are delivered to your residence. The process is simple: register at yellowpagesoptout.com and then log on to select which directories you no longer want. Unused directories may be recycled at the City of Rosenberg's 24/7 recycle center paper bin located at 3720 Airport Avenue. According to the American Forest and Paper Association, just 500 recycled books could save between 17 to 31 trees, 7,000 gallons of water, 463 gallons of oil, 587 pounds of air pollution, 3.06 cubic yards of landfill space and 4,077 kilowatt hours of energy!

ROSENBERG DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Building Our Future

Fiscal Year 2011 Economic Development Report

The Rosenberg Development Corporation (RDC) releases an annual report to give an overview of the local economy, and to highlight the importance of community economic development initiatives to strengthen the community by building a strong, diverse tax and employment base. The following information includes highlights from the most recent report, and encompasses economic activity and statistics for Fiscal Year 2011 (October 2010 through September 2011).

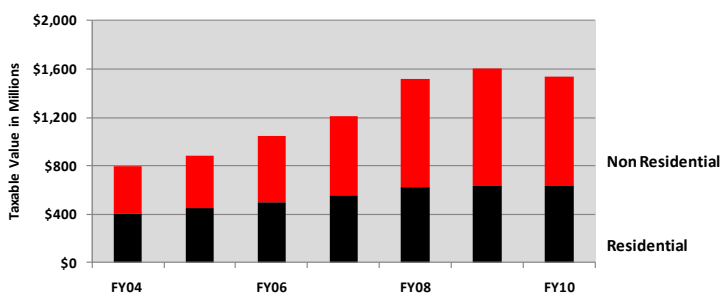
According to the Texas Workforce Commission, local **unemployment** was volatile throughout the period, ranging from a low of 8% in April 2011, to a high of 9% in June 2011, the highest rate since the economic downturn began in 2009. At the end of December 2011, the unemployment rate had dropped significantly to 7.3% - comparable to the unemployment rate for the State of Texas (7.1%), and lower than the national rate of 8.5%.

Employment in Rosenberg grew slowly, and steadily increased during FY11, with a slight lag in January. By the end of the fiscal year, total employment in the City was at its highest point in the last three fiscal years at 15,132, and has showed continued improvement into the first quarter of FY12.

City **sales tax revenues** increased slightly during FY11, finishing at approximately \$11.3 million, a 2.4% increase from FY10, and a 5.7% increase from FY09. Slowed growth in sales tax was anticipated due to a reduction in taxes collected on building materials owing to the continuing slowdown in the residential construction industry. However, much of this was offset by continued growth of tax revenue from Brazos Town Center.

The City's estimated total **property values** were approximately \$1.49 billion in FY11, a slight decrease of 2.2% from FY10, but more than twice the assessed value of approximately \$723 million in FY04.

City of Rosenberg
Tax Base Ratio



CoR Finance Department

The **ratio of non-residential property values to residential property values** remained the same as in FY10. However, at the completion of FY11, collectively, residential taxpayers represented a smaller portion of the City's ad valorem tax base, as the portion of non-residential property taxes increased from 49% (\$390 million) in FY04 to 59% (\$916 million) of the total ad valorem tax base, and residential decreased from 51% to 41% of the total.

FY11 was one of the most difficult years the City has faced since the economic downturn began, although trends that began to emerge in Fall 2011 indicate a positive uptick that is continuing today. These trends, coupled with the assistance of projects such as those initiated and funded by the Rosenberg Development Corporation, help emphasize the

importance of continued investments aimed at strengthening and diversifying the local economy. With continued growth in residential, commercial and industrial sectors, Rosenberg will be well situated to take advantage of any upturns in the broader economy.

A copy of the full RDC FY 2010 - 2011 Annual Report is available on the RDC website at: **RosenbergEcoDev.com**. For further information or questions, please contact the Economic Development Department at 832-595-3330.



Kucherka Honored for 50 Years of Service on Parks Board

In recognition of Stanley Kucherka's 50 years of continuous service on the Rosenberg Parks Board, the Rosenberg City Council has designated the entry road to Seabourne Creek Nature Park "Stanley Kucherka Drive". At the City's Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner held April 12, 2012, the new street sign for the entrance to Seabourne Creek Nature Park was unveiled to Mr. Kucherka.



Rosenberg Mayor, Vincent M. Morales, Jr., announced the new street name, and recognized Mr. Kucherka's service to the Parks Board since 1962, including service as President of the Board during his tenure. During Kucherka's 50 years of service, the City of Rosenberg has added Community, Macario Garcia, Harwood, and Riverbend Parks, as well as Seabourne Creek Nature Park and Seabourne Creek Regional Sports Complex, in addition to making significant improvements to Brazos, Sunset, and Travis Parks. Mr. Kucherka has also served as President of the Rosenberg National Little League and continues to serve on the City's Image Committee.

In announcing the honor, Mayor Vincent M. Morales stated, "Stanley's commitment to his community is displayed through his selfless service to the City and the development of enhancements to improve the quality of life and livability of Rosenberg."



The Rosenberg Parks Board, Rosenberg City Council, and members of Mr. Kucherka's family gathered for a quick photo on Wednesday, April 18 at the newly -installed sign.

Stanley is pictured in the photo at left with (L to R): Kathy Rod (daughter), Andrea Worthing (granddaughter), Melissa Rod (granddaughter), Stanley Kucherka, Bart Worthing (grandson in-law), Cheryl Suter (daughter), Chris Kucherka (son), Kenny Kucherka (son), Kale Jedlicka (great-grandson), and Shannon Jedlicka (granddaughter).

Guerrero Named April Employee of the Month

Rosenberg Police Department Identification Officer Rick Guerrero was honored as the City's April Employee of the Month for successfully undertaking the daunting task of reorganizing and inventorying the Police Department property room, making it possible to better serve the Police Department and the City of Rosenberg in an efficient and timely manner. Guerrero cleaned, sorted, and reorganized the property room, in addition to his regular assigned duties as Crime Scene Technician. He successfully completed the project with minimal cost to the City of Rosenberg. Guerrero's meticulous work has not only made the property room more efficient and organized, but also created more space and accessibility.

Thank you, Investigator Rick Guerrero, for your excellence and diligence in completing the project – job well done!

Pictured are: seated: ID Officer Rick Guerrero; standing, left to right: Detectives Jonathan White, Jonas Castillo, and Kevin Monfort; Police Chief Robert Gracia; Assistant to the City Manager Cyndy Powell; Detectives Danielle Delgado and John Rivera; Secretary Sally Chupik, and Detective Randall Leonhardt.



FY 2011 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report Presented



Sandersen, Knox & Company LLP presented their independent audit report of the City's financial statements for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2011 (FY 2011), at the March 6, 2012 City Council Meeting. The City received an unqualified opinion, indicating that the City presented its financial statements in conformity with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), and assuring that the financial statements are free of material misstatement based upon examination of supporting documentation and disclosures.

Highlights from the FY 2011 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) are included below to give an overview of the City's financial health. The CAFR is organized to present the financial position and results of operations of the City as measured by the financial activity of its various funds.

Financial Highlights

- At the close of the fiscal year, the assets of the City exceeded its liabilities by \$99,036,809 (net assets). The largest portion (66.5%) of net assets reflect investment in capital assets (e.g. land, buildings, vehicles, machinery and equipment, and infrastructure), less any related debt used to acquire those assets that is still outstanding. The City uses these capital assets to provide services; consequently, these assets are not available for future spending. Of net assets, \$25,503,173 (25.8%) represents unrestricted financial resources available to meet the City's ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors, and 7.7% represents resources that are subject to restrictions on how they may be used.
- As of September 30, 2011, the City's governmental funds reported an ending fund balance of \$23,231,955, an increase of \$5,148,479 in comparison with the prior year.
- At the end of FY 2011, unassigned fund balance for the General Fund was \$4,398,185 (21.9% of total General Fund expenditures). The fund balance of the General Fund increased by \$220,685 during the fiscal year, even though the City originally budgeted for a drawdown of \$981,000. This approximately \$1.2 million difference can be attributed to increased revenues (\$315,912 more than budgeted), and the City's ability to keep operating expenditures below budget across all departments (\$883,751 less than budgeted).
- The City's long-term debt increased by \$6,572,353 during FY 2011. At the end of FY 2011, the City had total bonds, certificates of obligation, tax notes, notes payable and compensated absences of \$60,760,288. Although the total debt for the City has increased over the years, the percent of debt to assessed value of property has remained near 3%.

Other Statistical Data and Trends

- Sales tax revenue increased by approximately 2.4% for the City of Rosenberg from fiscal year 2010 to fiscal year 2011. This trend has continued, with increases of 3% to 9% in the first six months of fiscal year 2012. Over the past eight years, City of Rosenberg sales tax has increased from \$5 million to nearly \$9 million.
- Property tax revenues have increased from \$4 million to \$7.5 million over the past eight years, while property tax rates have decreased from \$0.55 per \$100 valuation to \$0.50 per \$100 valuation. The increased revenues are due to increases in the assessed property values during the same period. Property values have increased in all areas (residential, commercial and personal property) and overall have more than doubled since 2002 from \$638,184,217 to \$1,485,473,800.

The complete 2011 CAFR is available at ci.rosenberg.tx.us by searching for "CAFR" on the home page. Questions related to the 2011 CAFR should be directed to the Finance Department at (832) 595-3350.

City Offices Closed for Memorial Day

Rosenberg municipal facilities will be closed on Monday, May 28, 2012, in observance of Memorial Day. Solid waste WILL be collected as regularly scheduled.

Citizens may contact the Citizen Relations Coordinator at (832) 595-3301 with questions.



Residents Reminded to Exercise Caution with Unsolicited Service Providers

The City of Rosenberg has become aware of mailings offering insurance coverage for water and wastewater line repairs to City utility customers. These offers of coverage are in no way affiliated with the City of Rosenberg - these are independent companies separate from the City's Utility Department.

Some letters request the addressee to provide a credit card number or bank account information - this is never a good idea and in some cases, it could be a scam to obtain your financial information to be used in a fraudulent manner.

Before electing to sign up for any unsolicited service, residents are encouraged to check the company out by researching them with a consumer advocacy group such as the Better Business Bureau.

Individuals may research companies on the Better Business Bureau's website, bbb.org, or by contacting the Better Business Bureau of Fort Bend County at (713) 868-9500.

Image Committee

May BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS

Landscape:

Addie Jones

1402 Helmsley Drive

Raza & Sadaf Masavi
7514 Summer Night Lane

Kevin & Julie Palmer
2610 Waterbrook Lane

George & Melissa Salinas
8015 Summerdale Drive

Dessie Schmid
3308 Avenue R

Renovation:

Robert Duran
909 Mulcahy Street

Start Planning for Hurricane Season!

Hurricane season officially begins June 1 and continues through the end of November. The Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) will recognize Hurricane Preparedness Week from May 27 to June 2, 2012, reminding residents in potentially threatened areas to be informed and prepared in case a hurricane makes landfall on the Texas Gulf Coast.

Even though Rosenberg is not situated directly on the coast, we could be severely affected by any hurricane that enters the Gulf of Mexico. Hurricanes can cause catastrophic damage to coastlines and several hundred miles inland. The Texas Department of Public Safety (TXDPS) has issued the following preparedness tips; keep these handy and discuss them with your family as you plan to stay as safe as possible.

- **Put an emergency supply kit together now.** Refill and re-check supplies AFTER EVERY STORM. After the storm hits, you may be able to return home in a matter of days. But re-entry may take much longer, depending on storm damage.

An emergency supply kit includes: NOAA weather radio and batteries, flashlight and batteries, extra eyeglasses, bottled water, non-perishable food, dry clothes, bedding, medications and copies of prescriptions, special products for babies, elderly and medically fragile family members, cash, credit cards, photo IDs, important documents and records (in a waterproof container), proof of residence and information your agent would require to process insurance claims.

- **Prepare an emergency kit for your pets** and a plan for how to care for them when you are on the road and in a shelter or motel. Do not leave your pets behind.

- **Make a checklist of preparations to be made before an evacuation and go over it with your family.** Review it again when a storm is in the Gulf of Mexico.

- **Learn evacuation routes BEFORE storm season.** Make sure you have a full tank of gas before you leave. Expect delays and longer drive-times than normal. Just like any rush hour, traffic congestion in an evacuation is unavoidable.

- **Contact your local office of emergency management to get information on making arrangements for anyone in your household who may need special assistance during an evacuation.**

To learn about hurricane hazards, what to do during a hurricane, how to plan for people with special needs or for pets, visit one of the following: **Ready.gov**, **HurricaneWorkshop.com**, or **RosenbergResponds.com**.

Gear Up for 2012 "Summer Fun in Historic Downtown Rosenberg"

The City of Rosenberg is proud to join the Downtown Merchants of Rosenberg (DMOR) in announcing the line-up for 2012 "Summer Fun in Historic Downtown Rosenberg" series. Events will occur the third Saturday of each month in Rosenberg's Historic Downtown District from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and are designed to showcase Downtown and help celebrate Rosenberg's heritage while providing free activities and entertainment throughout the day.

Downtown merchants will be open for business with specials running all day long, and are excited about the four Saturdays to help raise awareness of the diversity of shops and goods available in Downtown Rosenberg. Summer Fun will run every third Saturday from June 16 to September 15.



June 16, "Czech Heritage Day," will feature Cary Oswald & The Lazy Farmers Polka Band and the Texas Sound Czech Band. The bands will share the stage with local polka dancers throughout the day. Attendees can also enjoy a kolache-baking contest. The Czech Heritage Society will have a booth set up to display Czechoslovakian goods, along with many other local groups displaying their goods and services.

July 21, "Tribute to America," will include musical entertainment by the Texas Wild Band and the Shot Up Street Sign Band.

August 18, "Rosenberg Roundup" will feature the Brazos River Pickers and Justified as the day's musical entertainment.

September 15, "Hispanic Heritage Day," coincides with National Hispanic Heritage Month and is designed to help celebrate Rosenberg's Hispanic heritage. The Downtown event will feature Mariachi bands, ballet folklórico dance performances and cultural exhibits throughout the day. The Fort Bend Hispanic Heritage Forum is generously coordinating activities and entertainment for the event.



Mark your calendars for a "Summer Fun" series you don't want to miss – every third Saturday from June through September. Bring your family and friends, and don't forget your dancing shoes! Details for each event will follow as the dates draw nearer. Come down and spend time exploring Downtown Rosenberg and everything it has to offer. For more information, visit **www.RosenbergEvents.com**, check out the Downtown Merchants of Rosenberg on Facebook, or call 832-595-3525.

City Amends Sign Ordinance

At its March 20, 2012, meeting, Rosenberg City Council approved amendments to the City's sign regulations, affecting the display of flags (Ordinance No. 2012-11), display devices (Ordinance No. 2012-12) and banners (Ordinance No. 2012-13).

The full ordinances, as well as overviews of the modifications are available on the City's website, **www.ci.rosenberg.tx.us**, by searching for "Sign Ordinance" on the home page. Please contact the Planning Department at (832) 595-3500 with any questions related to the ordinance amendments.

"Go Green"... Paperless Billing now an Option!

City of Rosenberg utility customers now have the option to go paperless, thanks to the City's new online utility account services. With the new services, account information may be viewed online 24 hours a day including usage history, billing payments made, etc. Once registered for the service (no cost to register - only requires your account number and an e-mail address), customers can elect to receive an electronic bill via e-mail, a paper bill, a combination of the two, or neither. If customers select the electronic option, they will continue to receive bill inserts (such as the INSIDER newsletter and annual Water Quality Report) with their electronic bills.

If customers elect to do so, they may also pay their bills online via credit card or electronic check. There is a \$2.00 fee applied to these payments to cover the cost of the online payment services. This fee, in most cases, amounts to less than the 5% fee that is applied to credit card transactions made in person or over the phone.

To register for online account services, visit the City's website and select the "Online Bill Pay" icon from the right-hand side of the home page. Questions regarding online utility account services should be directed to Customer Service at (832) 595-3400.

ROSENBERG DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

832.595.3330 • www.RosenbergEcoDev.com



Fort Bend County Presents Update on Public Transit Program

In an effort to augment existing transit programs and lay the groundwork for an expansion of Public Transportation services, the Rosenberg Development Corporation (RDC) adopted a Transit and Pedestrian plan for Rosenberg in October 2010. This plan was designed for implementation through three phases: 1) create awareness of existing transit programs; 2) develop the transit market; and 3) establish the transit habit. The primary focus of Phase 1 was to raise awareness of existing Public Transportation programs already operated by Fort Bend County (FBC). The RDC contributed \$5,000 towards this marketing effort, which included advertisements in various forms of media.



Paulette Shelton, Director of the Fort Bend County Transportation Department, presented an update on Fort Bend County's public transportation program (www.co.fort-bend.tx.us and choose "public transportation" from Quick Links) to the RDC Board at their April 12, 2012 meeting. Fort Bend County public transportation services currently include commuter and demand response services. Commuter services will pick up passengers from designated stations throughout the county, including the brand new dedicated commuter stop at the Fort Bend County fairgrounds in Rosenberg, and will transport them to and from employment centers in Greenway Plaza and the Galleria as

well as to the Texas Medical Center. The demand response service is designed for more personalized trips and can pick passengers up at their homes and transport them to the location of their choosing. However, unlike the commuter service, reservations are required for demand response rides.

Data suggests that the implementation of Phase 1 marketing efforts had a significantly positive impact on Rosenberg residents' use of county public transportation. Prior to Phase 1, Sugar Land was the city from which the greatest number of transit trips originated. However, despite the fact that Sugar Land is roughly two and a half times more populous, Rosenberg is now the origin for the most trips.

Both the demand response and commuter services have experienced significant growth since their creation. In its first year (fiscal year 2005), the demand response service tallied only 319 rides. In FY 2011, the County recorded 104,084 total rides, a 44% increase from FY 2010. The County's commuter service began in FY 2005 with 3,819 rides and has grown to 142,751 in FY 2011. Commuter service increased by 45% between FY 2010 and FY 2011. The County's investment in a new commuter station at the fairgrounds is illustrative of the fact that it views public transit as an increasingly important commuting option for people traveling into Greenway Plaza, the Galleria, and the Medical Center for employment.

Rosenberg Mayor and RDC Board Member, Vincent M. Morales, Jr., recently joined other local officials including County Judge Bob Hebert, and Commissioner Richard Morrison in offering remarks at the opening of the new Park and Ride structure at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds.

The complete Rosenberg Transit and Pedestrian study can be found on the RDC's website (www.rosenbergecodev.com, under the "Quick Links" section on the home page). For more information about transit or other economic development activities, please contact the Economic Development Department at 832-595-3330.



Keep Rosenberg Beautiful Project a Success!



Twenty-two volunteers joined members of the Image Committee and Rosenberg City Council on Saturday, April 28, 2012, to plant more than 125 plants in Rosenberg's Sunset Park as part of Keep Rosenberg Beautiful's Spring Beautification Project.

Thanks to the generous donations from local sponsors, the group of volunteers, including students from Lamar Consolidated High School (LCHS) and Wharton County Junior College (WCJC), planted a large landscaping bed near the park pergola, and around the entrance sign. Concurrently, a group of fifteen Cub Scouts from Packs 1309 and 309, along with Boy Scouts from Troop 309, collected thirty-two pounds of trash and twenty-five pounds of recyclables from park grounds.



Keep Rosenberg Beautiful's mission is to educate and engage citizens to take responsibility for improving and cleaning their community environment. It is a subsidiary organization of the Rosenberg Image Committee. The Rosenberg event was endorsed by Keep Texas Beautiful, whose mission is to engage Texans to take responsibility for improving their community through litter prevention, beautification, and waste reduction.

Keep Rosenberg Beautiful (KRB) joined a nationwide effort involving over 2.3 million volunteers in more than

15,000 communities participating in cleanup, beautification, and community improvement activities as part of the Great American Cleanup, the nation's largest cleanup, beautification and community improvement program headed up by Keep America Beautiful.



Keep Rosenberg Beautiful's Spring Beautification Project was made possible by the generous support of community sponsors who contributed plants and supplies, and volunteers who donated man hours to successfully complete the project. Sponsors for the event included Caldwell Nursery, Enchanted Nurseries and Landscapes, Frank's Nursery, Kroger, Living Earth, Lowe's, Republic Services, South Texas Medical Clinics, and Texas Master Gardeners.



Volunteer in Rosenberg!

The City of Rosenberg has established a Volunteer Program, known as "Rosenberg Encourages Vital Volunteerism" (R.E.V.V.).

The Mission of the volunteer program is: "Building our community through vital volunteerism".



Volunteering is a vital component of community engagement and a tool to address many challenges our City faces. City staff members are offering opportunities to utilize volunteers within the framework of the City's service to the community, through short-term volunteer projects as well as long-term positions. In addition, Special Events, such as FISH-tastic, Easter Egg Hunt, Family Fourth and Christmas in Rosenberg, offer other ways to contribute time and build community.

The City of Rosenberg is dedicated to providing a volunteer program that will:

- Bring together volunteer resources and City staff to enhance the delivery of municipal services in a way that is mutually beneficial.
- Develop a network of concerned and involved volunteers who will make a significant positive impact in the life of their community and gain a greater understanding of how the City functions.
- Present a variety of opportunities to provide rewarding experiences that will increase pride and ownership in this community, while improving the City's effectiveness and image.



Regardless of your schedule or the amount of time you are able to make yourself available for volunteering, there is a place for you at the City of Rosenberg and a need for your skills and experience.

For volunteer opportunities, visit the Volunteer Program department page at www.ci.rosenberg.tx.us, or contact Barbara Vick, Volunteer Coordinator, at 832-595-3323 or barbarav@ci.rosenberg.tx.us.

Citizens' Police Academy Completes 18th Term

The 2012 Citizens' Police Academy completed its eighteenth term on May 14, with fourteen graduates including: Brandon Armstrong, Alicia Casias, Arturo DeLeon, Leticia Hernandez, Carolyn Kagy, Gail Keker, John Keker, Lorenzo Longoria, Jesse Navarro, Sheena Navarro, Matthew Ontiveros, Barbara Vick, David Vick, and Angelita Villareal.

The program, led by Lt. Colin Davidson, involved a series of fourteen classes that included presentations on: Rosenberg Police Department facilities; Communication and Internal Affairs Investigation; Criminal Investigation Division (CID); Narcotics Investigation; Criminal Investigations and Identification Division; Patrol Procedures; visit to Fort Bend County District Attorney and District Judge involving an explanation of the County's judicial system; Crime Victims Assistance/Women's Center; Lazer Shots – A hands-on introduction to the law enforcement firearms training system; building searches; visit to Fort Bend County Jail; School Resource Officer - juvenile laws and Police role in local schools; Traffic Enforcement and Accident Reconstruction; and Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT). Additionally, members of the Citizens' Police Academy had the opportunity to go on ride-alongs with Rosenberg Police Patrol Officers and experience firsthand, what Officers encounter on a daily basis.

Involvement in the Citizens' Police Academy is worthy of citizens' time and energy to learn more about our hard-working and dedicated Police force and to become a more involved and informed citizen. If you're interested in participating, keep an eye out in the fall for applications for the 2013 Rosenberg Citizens' Police Academy! For more information, please contact Lt. Colin Davidson at (832) 595-3700.

City Offices Closed for Independence Day



Rosenberg municipal facilities will be closed on Wednesday, July 4, 2012, for Independence Day. Solid waste will not be affected by the holiday, as Wednesday is not a regular service day.

Citizens may contact the Citizen Relations Coordinator at (832) 595-3301 with questions.

Mark Your Calendars for SUMMER FUN!

Saturday, June 16
Czech Heritage Day
Downtown
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Wednesday, July 4
Family 4th Celebration
Seabourne Creek
Nature Park
6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Saturday, July 21
Tribute to America
Downtown
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday, August 18
Rosenberg Round Up
Downtown
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday, September 15
Hispanic Heritage Day
Downtown
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Image Committee

June BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS

Landscape:

Rafael & Kayla Guzman
3014 Turtle Creek Drive

Mohammad & Nazma Khan
7510 Summer Night Lane

Estevan & Lisa Murillo
1106 Desert Oasis Lane

Maria Rodriguez
1316 Tobola Street

**Hector & Margarita
Villagomez**
413 Mebane Lane

Renovation:

Michael & Janis Fenske
2103 Briar Ridge Drive

Ned Sisan
3000 Avenue K



Rosenberg 2011 Drinking Water Quality Report Available Soon

The City of Rosenberg will release its 2011 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as mandated, by July 1. A copy of the report will be distributed to each utility customer. The 2011 Report will also be available online at www.ci.rosenberg.tx.us.

The City of Rosenberg water system's drinking water meets or exceeds all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) drinking water requirements. The report is a summary of the quality of the water we provide our customers.

Should you have any questions related to the report, please contact the City of Rosenberg Utilities Department at (832) 595-3582.

TIPS FOR A SAFE SUMMER

Homeowners everywhere are cleaning up their yards, scrubbing down the outdoor grill and getting ready for some summer backyard fun. Follow the safety tips below to ensure your summer's as safe as possible!

Grill Safety: Whether your grill is propane or charcoal, you need to take serious precautions when cooking - especially if there are young people around. Keep your outdoor grill clean and empty the grease trap regularly to avoid unexpected flare ups. Also remember to always keep the top of the grill closed if you have to look away for even a minute- especially if there are children around. And most importantly, use extreme caution when using igniter fluid as it can cause huge flames that could catch you off guard.

Swimming Safety: If you are lucky enough to have a swimming pool in the hot summer months, you and your family are probably already aware of the safety precautions that you need to take to ensure safe swimming. However, when entertaining guests, be sure to explain any safety rules, especially to children. Know how experienced your guest swimmers are, and never leave young people unattended in your pool.

Sources:
nfpa.org and homeinsurance.com

It's Worth Repeating... Conserve Water!

Summer is here, and water conservation is a constant concern. The following tips are suggested to help conserve two of our most precious resources – water and money! Try to do one thing each day that will result in a savings of water, including:



- Don't over water your lawn. As a general rule, lawns only need watering every 5 to 7 days in the summer. Water lawns during the early morning hours to reduce losses from evaporation.
- Don't water your street, driveway or sidewalk. Position your sprinklers so the water lands on the lawn and shrubs, not the paved areas. Regularly check sprinkler systems and timing devices to be sure they are operating properly. Do not clean the driveway or sidewalk with a hose, as it can waste hundreds of gallons of water.
- Raise the lawn mower blade to at least three inches. A lawn cut higher encourages grass roots to grow deeper, shades the root system and holds soil moisture better than a closely-clipped lawn.
- Avoid over fertilizing your lawn. The application of fertilizers increases the need for water. Apply fertilizers which contain slow-release, water-insoluble forms of nitrogen.
- Plant native and/or drought-tolerant grasses, ground covers, shrubs and trees that do not need to be watered as frequently and will usually survive a dry period without any watering.
- Mulch to retain moisture in the soil. Mulching also helps to control weeds that compete with plants for water.
- When finished watering with a hose, turn it off at the faucet instead of at the nozzle to avoid leaks. Check all hoses, connectors and spigots regularly, and don't leave sprinklers or hoses unattended; more than 600 gallons of water can be lost in a day.
- Consider using a commercial car wash that recycles water. If you wash your own car, park on the grass to do so.

Follow these tips to save water and money this summer!

Source: http://www.americanwater.com/49ways_saving_tips.php

Celebrate Freedom July 4th at Seabourne Creek Nature Park

Join us as we "Celebrate Freedom" at this year's Family 4th Independence Day Celebration, Wednesday, July 4, at Seabourne Creek Nature Park. The Gary-Michael Dahl Band will entertain crowds this year, and a diverse spread of food and beverage vendors will be on hand to satisfy attendees' appetites. There will be a children's carnival area with a rock wall and inflatables to keep kids entertained, a "rain" area, and complimentary horse-drawn wagon rides, thanks to the generous donations of event sponsors.



Bring your lawn chairs and blankets, and settle in for a relaxed, family-centered afternoon of great music, entertainment, and fireworks. The evening will culminate with Fort Bend County's best fireworks display by Pyrotecnico at approximately 9:15 p.m. Please note, pets, tobacco, or alcohol are not allowed in the park.

For further information, please visit www.ci.rosenberg.tx.us, or call 832-595-3520.

Police Explorers Win Big in Waxahachie

On Saturday, May 5, 2012, eleven members of the Rosenberg Police Explorers program participated in Regional Law Enforcement Explorers Competition in Waxahachie, Texas. 178 teams of four, from Texas and as far away as Kansas, sponsored by local, state and federal law enforcement agencies, participated in the competition.

Over 270 different scenario exercises were presented to the teams with participants judged to determine first, second, and third place in several categories including: crime scene search; building searches; felony traffic stops; crisis negotiation; domestic disturbances; bomb threats; traffic stops; robbery in progress; physical agility; academic achievement; traffic accident investigations; and bicycle obstacle course.

Members of the Rosenberg Police Explorers Post #2120 are to be commended on a job well done! Out of the 127 teams participating, Rosenberg Police Explorers placed in four categories, taking First Place in crisis negotiation, and robbery in progress, and Third Place in felony traffic stops, and domestic (family) violence.

The Police Explorers Program is affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America, and is open to those individuals between the ages of 13 and 20 who are interested in the field of Law Enforcement as a career choice. For more information, please contact the Rosenberg Police Department at (832) 595-3700.

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Texas Master Naturalists Help Bring Seabourne Creek Nature Park to Life



The Texas Master Naturalists, with generous financial assistance from the Rosenberg Development Corporation, are working to make Seabourne Creek Nature Park a haven for nature and recreation enthusiasts and an even greater point of pride for the Rosenberg community. The Coastal Prairie Chapter, since their work began in 2009, has completed numerous projects, amassing thousands of volunteer hours dedicated to improving the Park, which is an integral part of the City of Rosenberg's park system, and of the community's quality of life. The Texas Master Naturalist Program was developed by Texas Parks and Wildlife and Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service to establish a corps of well-trained, knowledgeable volunteers to aid in their mission to educate the public about Texas' natural resources and how to manage land (both private and public) to protect and conserve those resources.

Seabourne Creek Nature Park is home to four distinct habitats - the lake, wetlands, woods, and prairie restoration area - and the Master Naturalists have capitalized on this diversity in their development and marketing of the park. Some of the projects undertaken by the Naturalists since their work began include: development of an interpretive signage system and entryway signs; development and creation of a butterfly garden near the fishing lake entrance; tree planting; prairie restoration to remove alien grass species and reintroduce native species; bird sanctuary to attract migratory birds (to date, over 125 different birds have been sighted in Seabourne Creek Nature Park); lake maintenance including analysis of the soil, water, and fish, and periodic stocking; Eagle Scout projects including a covered work station for the prairie restoration area, pergolas and picnic tables, and hiking trails.

Next time you're looking for a quiet retreat into nature, a great outdoor exercise opportunity, or just somewhere to clear your head - look no further than our own Seabourne Creek Nature Park (park entrance located just south of the Rosenberg Civic Center at 3831 Highway 36 South). The partnership between the Rosenberg Development Corporation and the Coastal Prairie Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists demonstrates the ways in which public partnerships can leverage resources to improve quality of life. For more information on the Coastal Prairie Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists and their work at Seabourne Creek Nature Park, please visit: txmn.org/coastal/.



Photos courtesy Texas Master Naturalist Coastal Prairie Chapter and Wayne Poorman. Top row, left to right: Pine Warbler; Trail Signage; Wetlands Loop; Texas Thistle; Yellow Warbler. Bottom row: Monarch in Butterfly Garden; Warmouth Sunfish from Lake; New Entry Signage; Butterfly on Horsemint; Red-bellied Woodpecker.

City Receives New Fire Truck & Pins New Fire Chief

Rosenberg City Council, staff, and members of the public got a glimpse at the newest edition to the Rosenberg Fire Department, a 2012 Pierce Ladder Truck, on June 5.

The new "quint" will be housed at Rosenberg Fire Station Number 2 on Reading Road. The truck compliments the City's existing fleet, adding tremendous operability and reach with its aerial ladder, allowing firefighters a safer and more nimble approach to fire fighting through improved overhead access and situational assessment.



The truck was delivered by Pierce representatives from the manufacturing facility in Wisconsin, and was customized especially for the needs of the Rosenberg Fire Department. This dual-purpose engine/ladder truck is often called a "quint", because it can provide five (5) key functions of fire fighting

- a water tank, a pump, fire hose, ground ladders, and an aerial device (in Rosenberg's case, a 75-foot aerial ladder). Purchasing the ladder truck was critical in the City's recent upgrade to an Insurance Service Office (ISO) rating of 3 from a 4.



Council also witnessed a changing of the guard in the Rosenberg Fire Department on June 5 when Kathleen Hutchens, Rosenberg Fire Chief since January 2007, retired from the Department. Council recognized Chief Hutchens for her more than five years of outstanding service to and administration of the Rosenberg Fire Department, including oversight of the recent ISO survey and assessment, purchase of the new ladder truck, and planning for the development of the City's new Fire Station Number 3 and additional staff to accompany it.

Hutchens' last act as Rosenberg Fire Chief was to turn over the Department reins to veteran Rosenberg fireman, and most recently, Fire Marshal, Wade Goates. Chief Goates has been an employee of the City of Rosenberg since 1995, and Fire Marshal for the past six years.



Pictured above, top to bottom: New ladder truck with aerial extended; Councilor Juan Salazar looks in on Rosenberg Assistant Fire Chief Darrell Himly and Mayor Vincent M. Morales, Jr. in the cab of the new truck; On-duty members of the Rosenberg Fire Department pose for a photo of the new truck with City Council members; Retiring Rosenberg Fire Chief, Kathleen Hutchens, shares a laugh with Jack Hamlett, City Manager, and Mayor Morales; Chief Goates and Chief Hutchens salute one another during the pinning ceremony (left), and pose for a photo with the new truck (right).

New Trash Service to Begin August 1

Rosenberg is rolling out a new trash cart and recycling cart program!



Republic Services, Inc. will begin delivering a 95-gallon roll-out cart for curbside recycling and a second 95-gallon roll-out cart for solid waste collection to Rosenberg residents the week of July 16, and continue through July 31. Below are the collection days and the new schedule for all trash services, to take effect August 01, 2012.

WEDNESDAYS of each week, **beginning Wednesday, August 01** – Service of Solid Waste roll-out cart (blue lid) and Recycling roll-out cart (green lid). Carts should be at the curb before 7:00 a.m., with the front of the cart facing the street, and 3 feet of distance between

the carts themselves and any other objects such as mailboxes, vehicles, fences, etc. to facilitate automated pickup.

MONDAYS of each week, **beginning Monday, August 06** – “Green Waste” pickup of lawn cuttings and tree/bush trimmings.

TUESDAYS of each week, **beginning Tuesday, August 07** – “Bulky Item” pickup of heavier or larger items that do not fit in the trash container.

New residential service rates, effective August 01, 2012, are: \$15.15/month, or \$14.39/month for citizens aged 65 and over, which **represents a \$2.20/month savings from current rates.**

HOLIDAY SERVICE: If a holiday falls on your regular service day, the scheduled service for that day will occur the following day. For example, if a holiday falls on Monday, the service for that day will occur on Tuesday and will not affect the bulky item collection scheduled for Tuesday.

CART ASSISTANCE: If a person requires assistance bringing their carts from their residence to the street, they may call the Citizens Relations Coordinator at 832-595-3301 to request assistance.

ATTEND AN INFORMATION SESSION

SATURDAY, JULY 21, 2012 - or - SATURDAY, AUGUST 04, 2012
ROSENBERG CIVIC CENTER PARKING LOT – 3825 SH 36 SOUTH

Come on either Saturday, anytime between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon, to see the carts and receive further orientation.

For more information, visit the City's website, www.ci.rosenberg.tx.us, and **search for “solid waste.”** Contact Karyn Zwahr, Citizen Relations Coordinator, at (832) 595-3301 or karynz@ci.rosenberg.tx.us with questions.

City Council Adopts Revised Election District Plan

Rosenberg City Council adopted a revised election district plan at their June 5, 2012 meeting. City Council approved Ordinance No. 2012-13, adopting Plan 4 as recommended by the Election District Plan Task Force appointed by City Council to develop a new election district plan for the City, based on 2010 Census data.

Maps of the adopted election district plan, outlining the revisions in the single member districts required to obtain substantially equal populations, are available for review in the City Secretary's Office, 2110 4th Street, by contacting (832) 595-3340.

The election district plan adopted by Rosenberg City Council will now be submitted to Fort Bend County and the Department of Justice (DOJ) for review and preclearance. Once approved by the DOJ, the new election districts will become effective for the May 2013 general municipal election. After receiving notification of final approval, updated Rosenberg election district maps will be made available on the City's website.



Mark Your Calendars for SUMMER FUN!

Saturday, July 21
Tribute to America
Downtown
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday, August 18
Rosenberg Round Up
Downtown
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday, September 15
Hispanic Heritage Day
Downtown
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Thank you,
Family 4th Sponsors...
for helping make this
year's Celebration
better than ever!

Image Committee

July BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS

Landscape:

Tracy & Jan Sidney
1806 Village Court Lane

Darren & Cindy Schmidt
1300 Avenue K

Joe & Mary Cuellar
3600 Avenue N

Ethel Tappe
1115 Carlisle

Brandon & Aileen McGee
1008 Magnolia

Renovation:

Frank Johnson
1221 Houston Street

Americana Consignment Sales
1301 1st Street



Protect Your Home & Valuables this Summer!

Property crimes including burglary can increase in the summer when many people take vacations away from home. Don't be a victim - follow these simple steps to help deter criminals:

- Make sure to always lock your vehicle, and don't leave valuables in plain view.
- Help burglar-proof your home by making sure all doors and windows are locked, and keeping the grass cut in the back yard to help increase visibility.
 - Depending on the length of your absence, consider putting a hold on your mail until you return. You can often do this online with the US Postal Service.
 - Stop newspaper delivery.
- Ask a neighbor to keep an eye on your home and pick up any packages, etc. left outside.
- Don't announce your vacation to the entire world. Your online profile is probably not the best place to brag about being gone for an extended period of time - save the stories and pictures for your return!
- Consider contacting the Rosenberg Police Department regarding a housewatch at (832) 595-3700 if you'll be gone for an extended period of time.

Follow these tips, and have a safe and happy Summer vacation!

Recent Retirements

In addition to Fire Chief Kathleen Hutchens, the City of Rosenberg recently said "goodbye" to two veteran employees who also retired.

Daryl Hartmann, Rosenberg Fire Department Captain and City employee since 1978, retired from the Rosenberg Fire Department in June 2012, earning him over 34 years of service with the City.

Hartmann began as a fire fighter and steadily moved up through the ranks to earn the title of Captain in December 1991. Hartmann, joined by his family, was recognized by colleagues and the public in a reception prior to the City Council Meeting on June 19.

Captain Hartmann is pictured on the right with Mayor Vincent M. Morales, Jr., Hartmann's wife, Nancy, Fire Chief Wade Goates, and Assistant Fire Chief Darrell Himly.



Thank you, Captain Hartmann for your years of commitment to the safety and well-being of Rosenberg residents!

James Taylor, Maintenance Worker for the Parks and Recreation Department since May 1999, also retired from the City in May 2012, completing thirteen years as a City employee.

James was known by his colleagues for his cheerful disposition and willingness to help.



James was recognized at a luncheon by fellow employees and his family on May 24, and will be fondly remembered as a dedicated worker. James is pictured with Mayor Morales and Parks Director, Darren McCarthy.

Thank you, James, for your years of dedicated service to the City of Rosenberg and our residents!

Employees of the Month

Rosenberg fire fighters Bobby Teichman and Thomas Brown were recognized as the City's July Employees of the Month because of their compassion and response to a citizen's needs, over and above the call of duty.

While responding to the residence of a senior citizen in need of assistance, the two aforementioned Rosenberg fire fighters observed a bathroom sink that was not draining, a situation that presented a health concern to the resident. After learning that the resident



had simply begun to use another sink, and receiving the residents' permission to repair the problem, Teichman, along with Brown, successfully repaired the problem, so that water flowed freely down the drain, and then cleaned and disinfected the entire area.

Congratulations, and thank you, gentlemen, for going above and beyond to aid a citizen in need!

Photo (L to R): Fire Chief Wade Goates, Fire Fighter Thomas Brown, Fire Fighter Bobby Teichman, City Manager Jack Hamlett, Lieutenant Jeffrey Schumann and Captain Adam Carlin.

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Sunset Park Improvements Complete!



Sunset Park, 2017 Mulcahy Street, home of Rosenberg's beloved Sunset Rocket playground equipment, recently received another upgrade thanks to funding from the Rosenberg Development Corporation (RDC) as part of their community park improvements project.



The RDC improvements, approved in April of 2011, included the construction of a .54 mile trail which winds through shaded areas of the park and between the baseball fields, installation of additional benches, painting of the two park pavilions, and installation of pergolas and picnic tables to add shaded areas to the park.



Sunset Park previously received an upgrade as part of the 2006 Bond Projects, including construction and installation of new Rocket playground equipment installed in April 2010, and construction of new restroom facilities completed in 2009.

The RDC improvements to Sunset Park follow close on the heels of Travis Park improvements, completed last year, which included construction of a similar walking trail and drainage improvements.

Neighborhood park improvements are an ongoing project for the RDC. The RDC is currently developing its Fiscal Year 2013

budget, which includes determining which park will be improved next, as well as what those improvements might include.



Texas law authorizes Economic Development Corporations such as the RDC to engage in projects that improve a community's quality of life. These projects can take various forms, from developing new attractions to improving neighborhood park facilities.



Enhancements made to existing neighborhood parks are an important aspect of economic development, as businesses seek to relocate their operations and employees to locations with a high quality of life.



The Rosenberg INSIDER is
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www.ci.rosenberg.tx.us

Rosenberg INSIDER



August/September 2012

Mayor Addresses both Chambers at 2012 State of the City Address

A crowd of over 400 enjoyed the "State of the City" luncheon on Monday, July 9 at Safari Texas hosted by the Central Fort Bend Chamber Alliance (CFBCA) and Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce (FBCC).



The luncheon, featuring an address by Rosenberg Mayor, Vincent M. Morales Jr., opened with an invocation by Rev. Deborah Prihoda of Rosenberg's First Assembly of God Church. The Rosenberg Police Department Color Guard posted the colors, while Ryan Ballard and Brooks Green (pictured at left), members of Boy Scout Troop 1880, led the Pledge of Allegiance. Edward Crowell III, Executive Director of Imperial Arts, performed the National Anthem. The Marvin Gaspard Trio provided musical entertainment courtesy of Imperial Arts of Rosenberg.

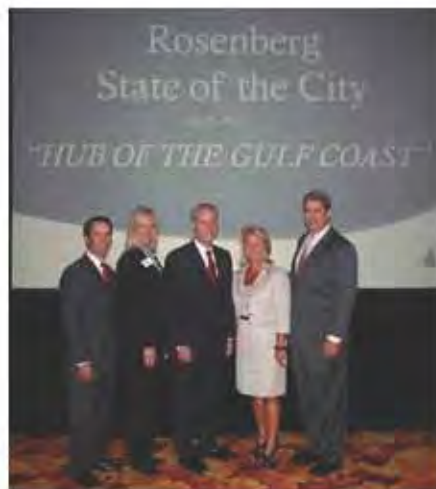
Mayor Morales presented a detailed overview of Rosenberg's current growth and future development potential, highlighting the community's unique position as the "Hub of the Gulf Coast". The Mayor cited Rosenberg's geographic location at the intersection of several major transportation nodes in the greater Houston area, including highway and rail, coupled with the availability of large tracts of developable land, as a driver of continued development.

Mayor Morales also touched on exciting developments in store for Historic Downtown Rosenberg, including recent application for designation as a Texas Cultural District, upcoming renovation of the Cole Theater, and opening of an Arts Center; along with projects aimed at revitalizing the City's Highway 90A corridor; and ongoing infrastructure and public safety improvements including expansion of the city's animal shelter, and construction of a new fire station.

Morales highlighted Rosenberg's great quality of life, including a low crime rate, a steady diversified economy, and great recreation opportunities, and concluded by emphasizing his vision for a prosperous, invigorated Rosenberg through the creation of jobs, the addition of new residents, and the continued provision of quality services.

The City hopes to host an event for residents at the Civic Center in October to give an overview of the FY 2013 "roadmap" for Rosenberg. Check the INSIDER next month for more details!

Photos courtesy CFBCA. Pictured at right are CFBCA Chairman, Tom Crayton; CFBCA President and CEO, Shanta Kuhl; Rosenberg Mayor Vincent M. Morales, Jr.; FBCC President/CEO, Keri Schmidt; and FBCC Chairman, Bruce Mercer.



It's HURRICANE season - ARE YOU PREPARED!?

Visit www.Ready.gov for great tips on how to get you, your family, and/or your business ready for anything Mother Nature might throw our way.

BE INFORMED. MAKE A PLAN. BUILD A KIT. GET INVOLVED.

New Trash Service Begins August 1

Rosenberg is rolling out a new trash cart and recycling cart program!

Republic Services, Inc., has delivered a 95-gallon roll-out cart for curbside recycling and a second 95-gallon roll-out cart for solid waste collection to Rosenberg residents for the new trash service that begins August 01. Below are the collection days and the new schedule for all trash services.

WEDNESDAYS of each week, beginning Wednesday, August 1 – Automated Service of Solid Waste roll-out cart (blue lid) and Recycling roll-out cart (green lid). Carts should be at the curb before 7:00 a.m., with the front of the cart facing the street, and 3 feet of distance between the carts themselves and any other objects such as mailboxes, vehicles, fences, etc. to facilitate automated pickup. **All trash and recycling must be in the carts with the lids closed for pickup. No items outside of the carts will be picked up.**

MONDAYS of each week, beginning Monday, August 6 – “Green Waste” pickup of lawn cuttings and tree/bush trimmings. Leaves and yard clippings should be in bags or personal containers, and tree/bush trimmings should be stacked neatly (preferably tied) at the edge of the street.

TUESDAYS of each week, beginning Tuesday, August 7 – “Bulky Item” pickup of heavier or larger items that do not fit in the trash container, including stoves, water heaters, washing machines, other household appliances, and furniture items, excluding items such as refrigerators, tires, TVs, and hazardous materials.

CART ASSISTANCE: If a person requires assistance bringing their carts from their residence to the street, they may call the Citizens Relations Coordinator at 832-595-3301 to request assistance.

For recycling of electronics and hazardous materials, residents are encouraged to continue to utilize the Fort Bend County Recycling Center, at 1200 Blume Road, Rosenberg.

For more information, visit the City’s web site and search “Solid Waste”. Contact Karyn Zwahr at (832) 595-3301, or by email at karynz@ci.rosenberg.tx.us with questions or concerns.



City Employee Earns Texas Plumbing Inspector’s License



Federico DeLeon, Building Inspector in the City’s Code Enforcement Department, received special recognition at City Council meeting on July 17, for recently obtaining his Texas Plumbing Inspector’s License.

The Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners holds the licensing for Plumbing Inspectors, and the aspiring applicant must have 500 hours of training and education to qualify for the test that is state administered and very stringent. Earning the Texas Plumbing Inspector’s license involves a rigorous two-year commitment on the part of the applicant.

Federico has been a City of Rosenberg employee since 1997, when he began in the Utilities

Department. During his 15 years, he has been promoted or advanced five times, an indication of his initiative and drive as a loyal City employee. This license provides for a career step for Federico, as he now qualifies as an Inspector II.

The City is extremely proud of Federico’s achievements, and congratulates him for his dedication and hard work! Federico is pictured with Tonya Palmer, Building Official, and Mayor Vincent M. Morales, Jr.

Mark Your Calendars for SUMMER FUN!

Saturday, August 18
Rosenberg Round Up
Downtown
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday, September 15
Hispanic Heritage Day
Downtown
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Labor Day Closure

Municipal offices will be closed Monday, September 3, for Labor Day.

Green waste will be collected Monday as regularly scheduled.

Please contact Citizen Relations at (832) 595-3301 for further information regarding waste collection.

Have a safe and happy Labor Day!

Image Committee

August BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS

Landscape:

Mauro & Lucy Arrambide
2702 Bamboo Lane

Andrew & Darcelle Binion
7610 Summer Shore Drive

Dionicio & Irma Hernandez
5815 Herbie Drive

Leonsio Rios
7411 Summer Night Lane

George & Cecilia Valverde
7618 Summer Night Lane

Renovation:

Burger King
5141 Avenue H

Safelite Auto Glass
27970 Southwest Freeway



Red-Shouldered Hawks Relocated

In late May, representatives from CenterPoint Energy worked with the Wildlife Center of Texas to relocate two red-shouldered hawks from the main power service pole at the Rosenberg Civic Center, to the Wildlife Center of Texas in Houston. The birds, a protected species, were relocated due to the proximity of their nest to the electric service.



The hawks were safely removed and relocated to the Wildlife Center of Texas where they will be cared for and eventually re-released into the wild.



For more information, visit www.tpwr.state.tx.us, or www.wildlifecenteroftexas.org.

Police Department Hosts Drive to Benefit Fort Bend Women's Center

The Rosenberg Police Department is kicking off a two-week donation drive benefitting the Fort Bend County Women's Center, a non-profit organization assisting survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and their children. Donations of gently used clothing (women's, men's and children's), dishware, shoes, linens, accessories, jewelry, electronics, sporting goods and toys are needed.* **Items can be dropped off from September 24 through October 5, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. at the Rosenberg Police Department** located at 2120 4th Street in Rosenberg.

Take advantage of this great opportunity and help a worthy cause by cleaning out your closets and making a difference in someone's life! For more information about this donation drive, please call (832) 274-4542. If you or someone you know is a victim of domestic violence or sexual assault, please call the Center's 24-hour hotline at 281-342-4357 (HELP).

*Large houseware items such as washers, dryers, refrigerators and furniture are also accepted and must be picked up separately at a place of residence or business by calling (281) 344-5770 to arrange a convenient time. All items must be in working condition to be accepted.



FORT BEND COUNTY WOMEN'S CENTER
Assisting Survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Community-minded? Sign up to Volunteer at the City!



Help build our community through vital volunteerism

Rosenberg's REVV volunteer program provides the perfect means to utilize your time and talents to the benefit of the community, all the while expanding your skills set, learning about how the City operates, and providing valuable input.

The City has several volunteer job positions currently available including: Director of Keep Rosenberg Beautiful, Customer Service Clerk, Information Technology Technician, Fire Department Clerk/Receptionist and Code Enforcement Clerk. Visit the City's website, or contact Barbara Vick, Volunteer Coordinator, at (832) 595-3323, or barbarav@ci.rosenberg.tx.us.

City Council Thanks Residents for Committee Service

Rosenberg City Council thanked members of the Rosenberg community for their service on City committees, and welcomed new members at the July 17th City Council Meeting.



Those present to receive their certificates included, left photo, Certificates of Appreciation for outgoing committee members, Joyce Bartos (RCVB), Janie Warstler (RCVB), and Don Kolkmeier (RDC) with Mayor Pro Tem Tom Suter (left) and Mayor Morales (right).

Right photo, Certificates of Appointment for Bill Knesek (RDC), Rachel Steele (Avenue H Business Assistance), Melissa Dixon (Special Events), Ray Kueck (Building and Standards Board, Image), Councilor Juan Salazar (Avenue H Business Assistance), Lila Villagomez (Image), Janie Warstler (Special Events, Parks, RDC), Joyce Bartos (Image), and George Zepeda (Parks).

For more information on City boards and committees, visit www.ci.rosenberg.tx.us, or contact the City Secretary's office at (832) 595-3340.

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RDC Business Appreciation Reception



The Rosenberg Development Corporation's annual Business Appreciation Reception drew more than 200 representatives from area businesses to the Rosenberg Civic Center on Thursday, July 26. For the third consecutive year, the RDC partnered with the Central Fort Bend Chamber Alliance (CFBCA) to produce the event. The event is intended to help show appreciation to Rosenberg businesses, provide business owners with information and resources to grow their business, and answer questions for budding business owners about the process of starting a new business.

The 2012 event included free samples of some of the finest food in Rosenberg from restaurants such as Another Time Soda Fountain, Buena Vista, Buffalo Wild Wings, Cernoch's Country Kitchen, Freebirds World Burritos, Gringo's Mexican Restaurant, Olive Garden, Panera Bread and Pepperoni's New York Style Pizza and free soft beverages from Silver Eagle Distributors.

Exhibitors included: American Red Cross, CFBCA, CFBCA Hispanic Business Division, CFBCA Young Professionals Division, Conrad N. Hilton School of Hotel and Restaurant Management, Downtown Merchants of Rosenberg, Fort Bend County Women's Center/Pennywise Resale Center, Fort Bend Herald, Imperial Performing Arts, Rosenberg Civic Center, Rosenberg Development Corporation, Rosenberg Fire Department, Rosenberg Parks & Recreation Department, Rosenberg Planning Department, Rosenberg Police Department, Texana Center, Texas State Technical College, University of Houston's Fort Bend County Small Business Development Center, University of Houston Manufacturing Assistance Center, West Fort Bend Management District, Wharton County Junior College and Workforce Solutions.

Music was provided by Vicki and Rodney Merwin, and a special on-site art demonstration was provided by local artist Robyn Miller, courtesy of Imperial Performing Arts. Door prizes were awarded, including a grand prize of a Rosenberg "stay-cation" package.



Photos from top, left to right: Chamber staff display the welcome banner; Jeff Messer and Rae Taylor represent the Downtown Merchants of Rosenberg; Lydia Turrubiate, John Lane, Mayor Morales, and Mark Foltz; Liz Moreno, Joy Dowell, and Vita Goodell of the Women's Center; RDC member, Bill Knesek, visits with representatives from the Small Business Development Center; Robyn Miller, of Imperial Arts, creates a piece of artwork during the event; Tracey Shaw, Chanta Burton, Andi Wallis, Albert Gonzales and Aaron Clark visit at the Texana booth.

September/October 2012

Public Safety Events Highlight Early October



Public safety officers from the Rosenberg Police and Fire Departments will join residents and City officials to celebrate **National Night Out (NNO) - America's Night Out Against Crime - on Tuesday, October 2, 2012.** Communities across Texas will join forces for the 29th annual crime and drug prevention event. National Night Out is sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch and the Rosenberg Police Department. From 7 p.m., residents in neighborhoods throughout Rosenberg are asked to lock their doors, turn on outside lights and spend the evening outside with neighbors and police.

NNO was organized by the National Association of Town Watch in 1984. The evening is designed to: heighten awareness of crime and drug prevention; generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime efforts; strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and send a message to criminals letting them know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back. Last year's event involved over 37 million people in more than 15,000 communities from all 50 states.

Rosenberg's National Night Out will include neighborhood block parties throughout the City. Individuals or groups interested in organizing or hosting a neighborhood block party should complete an online registration form available from the Police Department's Community Relations webpage on the City's website, or contact Lt. Colin Davidson at (832) 595-3726.



President Woodrow Wilson issued the first National Fire Prevention Day proclamation in 1920, and since 1922, Fire Prevention Week has been observed every year, making it the longest running public health and safety observance on record. The 2012 **National Fire Prevention Week will be October 7 - 13.**

It is important to have a home fire escape plan that prepares your family to think fast and get out quickly when the smoke alarm sounds. What if your first escape route is blocked by smoke or flames? That's why having two ways out is such a key part of your plan. This year's theme, "Have 2 Ways Out!", focuses on the importance of fire escape planning and practice. Test your fire safety IQ by taking a quick, fun quiz available at nfpa.org.

The Rosenberg Fire Department invites you to an **Open House to celebrate Fire Prevention Week - Tuesday, October 9 - from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at Fire Station No. 1 - 1012 4th Street.** Events scheduled for the evening include a "jaws of life" demo, fire extinguisher training, water display, fire safety house, fire safety interactive displays, fire station tours and apparatus displays. Everyone is invited, young and old. Bring your camera for great photo opportunities with Sparky!

Fort Bend County Fair Day Closure

Municipal offices will be closed Friday, September 28
for Fort Bend County Fair Day.

Have a safe and happy Fair Day!

FIGHT THE BITE! Protect Yourself from West Nile Virus

Summer involves BBQs, gardening, swimming pools and hikes...and mosquitoes. Enjoy the outdoors, but remember to protect yourself and your family from mosquito-borne diseases such as West Nile Virus. Your best defense against being bitten is simply to be prepared. Help Fight the Bite!



It is impossible to eradicate mosquitoes. Spraying done by the City is an attempt to control the mosquito population, but it takes everyone doing their part to keep the pests (and potential diseases they can carry) under control. Residents should not rely solely on the City's mosquito spraying for protection from deadly diseases carried by certain mosquitoes. The City currently conducts mosquito spraying twice weekly in the City limits.

Take responsibility for your own health by following the suggestions of the Texas Department of State Health Services to protect yourself and your family from mosquitoes:

- **DRAIN** any standing water in your yard – Mosquitoes love to breed in stagnant water. This includes pools, broken flower pots or other open containers, clogged rain gutters, and bird baths.
- **DRESS** in long sleeves and pants if you are outside and mosquitoes are active. For extra protection, spray clothing and exposed body areas with repellent.
- **DUSK/DAWN** is when mosquitoes are most active. Try your best to stay indoors! If going out, use repellent.
- **DEET** (n,n-diethyl-m-toluamide) is an ingredient to look for in your insect repellent. Other acceptable repellents contain Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus or Picaridin. Also consider using appropriate sprays for your yard. Always wear repellent when you are outside and follow label instructions; do not allow children to apply their own repellent.

For information regarding the City's mosquito spraying program, contact Citizen Relations at 832-595-3301. Visit cdc.gov for additional information on the prevention of the West Nile Virus.

Sources: Harris County Public Health and Environmental Services and Texas Department of State Health Services

Bill Adams Promoted to Rosenberg Fire Captain



Bill Adams began his career as a firefighter with the Rosenberg Fire Department in May of 1994, and was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in March of 2005. He holds an Advanced Firefighter Certification, Advance Fire Investigator, Advance Fire Inspector, certified Fire Instructor II, Fire Officer II, Driver/Operator certification and EMT-B.

Captain Adams is instrumental in maintaining the Fire Department's reporting software and has just completed the installation of Fire Manager, a firefighter scheduling program. Captain Adams also served as committee chairperson for the new ladder truck.

Fire Chief Wade Goates stated, "It is an honor to promote Lt. Bill Adams to Captain. He continually demonstrates a strong commitment to teamwork and is dedicated to the mission, vision, and values of the Rosenberg Fire Department and the City of Rosenberg. I have every confidence he will embrace his responsibilities, and I look forward to working with him in his new assignment. He is an outstanding example of the caliber of firefighters we have serving our City."

"I feel both humbled and privileged for the career advancement I have received," stated Adams. "I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my wife Mandy, the exceptional leaders I have looked up to in the past as well as present, and the City for providing me the opportunity to serve the citizens of Rosenberg in the capacity of Captain. I am very grateful and honored to accept this promotion."

Adams was officially pinned as Captain by his wife, Mandy, at the August 21 City Council Meeting. He is pictured (on the right) with Fire Chief Wade Goates in front of the Rosenberg Fire Department flag at Station No. 1. Congratulations, Captain Adams!

SUMMER FUN in Historic Downtown Rosenberg!

Saturday, September 15
Hispanic Heritage Day
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Come enjoy Mariachi and Ballet Folklorico performances, a jalapeno eating contest, and much more throughout the day!



Entirety of Blume Road Designated "No Parking"

In order to increase safety for vehicles and pedestrians, City Council adopted Ordinance 2012-26 at the August 21, 2012 City Council Meeting, expanding the "no parking" zone on Blume Road so that it now includes both sides of the road from Klauke Road to Spur 529.

The ordinance provides for a maximum penalty of \$200 for violations.

Image Committee

September BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS

Landscape:

Mirza Baig
6410 Milam Branch Lane

Gloria Garcia
1011 Walnut Avenue

Brazos Ranch Apartments
7404 Town Center Boulevard

Louis Chapa
1201 Damon Street

Ricky and Carla Wilkins
1234 Hemple Drive

Renovation:

Pedro & Rosalva Gonzalez
1022 Timber Lane



Residential Rental Property Registration

All rental properties must be registered by September 30

The City of Rosenberg Code of Ordinances, Chapter 6, Article 19, requires that all residential rental properties within the City be registered annually by September 30.

Residential rental properties must be registered at the Rosenberg Fire Marshal's office located at 1012 5th Street. The necessary documents for property registration may be picked up at the office or downloaded at ci.rosenberg.tx.us by selecting "Departments" then "Fire" and "Residential Rental Property Inspections".

Residential rental properties not registered by the September 30 deadline may be subject to additional administrative and inspection fees as specified in the City's Code.

For further information or questions about the City's Residential Rental Inspection Program, please contact the Fire Marshal's Office at (832) 595-3600.

Transit Opportunities Abound!

Fort Bend County currently offers shared bus ride services and commuter services to the residents of Fort Bend County.

Shared bus ride services operate within Fort Bend County, cost \$1 per person each way, and require a reservation made by calling (866) 751-TRIP.

Commuter services offer fixed routes into Harris County including Greenway, Galleria, and Texas Medical Center. Cost is \$3.50 per person each way.

For more information, visit www.co.fort-bend.tx.us, and choose "Public Transportation" from the Quick Links drop down menu, or call (281) 633-RIDE (7433).

Rosenberg Police Lieutenants Receive Master's Degrees

Lieutenant Aaron Slater and Lieutenant Wayne Jory were each awarded a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice Leadership and Management from Sam Houston State University (SHSU), on August 04, 2012.

Graduate students in the Criminal Justice Leadership and Management program at SHSU gain extensive knowledge in organizational leadership, analysis of crime, research, psychology, community theory, sociology, legal liabilities, resource development, employment law, program evaluation, personnel management, computer applications, and each student is required to conduct a research capstone of emergent issues in criminal justice. The program is one of the most recognized graduate level degree programs for criminal justice leaders in the nation. Lieutenants Slater and Jory were able to attain their degrees through scholarships from the 100 Club of Houston.

In addition to earning his Master's Degree, Lieutenant Aaron Slater also graduated from the Leadership Command College – Class 67 of the Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas (LEMIT) on August 3. The program, taught by a consortium of universities throughout Texas consists of three modules and provides law enforcement administrators and executives with the skills necessary to effectively manage police agencies and deliver a high level of service to their communities.

Rosenberg City Council recognized Lieutenants Slater and Jory for their significant achievements at the August 21 City Council Meeting. Pictured are Mayor Vincent M. Morales, Jr., Lt. Wayne Jory, Lt. Aaron Slater, Police Chief Robert Gracia, and City Manager Jack Hamlett.

Congratulations, Lieutenants Slater and Jory, for your diligence and dedication in continuing your education and expertise for the benefit of the residents and City of Rosenberg.



Utility Department Workers Named Employees of the Month

Utility Foreman Herman Hernandez, Jr., and Utility Workers Santiago Rangel and James Horak received special recognition as the September City of Rosenberg Employees of the Month.

The three utility workers were assigned to the Seabourne Creek Water Reuse Line Installation Project that began April 23. The purpose of the project was to expand the City's capabilities to effectively utilize reuse water to irrigate green space at Seabourne Creek Park and reduce the amount of potable groundwater previously used for this purpose. The project involved laying 1800 feet of 8" water line and 160 feet of 4" water line, boring under an existing asphalt road without stopping traffic, and installing numerous valves and fittings, and was given an ambitious completion date of June 21, 2012.



Through their diligence, planning and hard work, this team of three employees completed the project without requesting any additional help or resources. Remarkably, the project was completed almost two weeks ahead of schedule and at a substantial cost savings to taxpayers. With the completion of this project, the City will be eligible to obtain over-conversion credits from the Fort Bend Subsidence District, a valuable component in meeting the City's 30% groundwater reduction mandate in 2016.

Thank you, Gentlemen, for your outstanding performance and contributions to this project and the City!

Pictured are: Karl Zwahr - Utility Superintendent, John Maresh - Assistant City Manager, James Horak, Herman Hernandez, Jr., Santiago Rangel, Jack Hamlett - City Manager, and Kevin Williams - Utility Supervisor.

ROSENBERG DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



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Sales Tax Dollars at Work

Economic development includes any activity that seeks to improve the economic condition of a community in order to provide jobs and a stable tax base for the provision of essential services and infrastructure. Economic development strategies are most likely to create resilient local economies when they utilize the unique strengths and comparative advantages of their communities. Economic development initiatives generally seek to achieve one or more of five goals: 1) the recruitment of new employers; 2) the retention and/or expansion of existing businesses; 3) support for entrepreneurs; 4) support for community investment; and 5) quality of life improvements.

Texas state law allows cities to establish Type A and/or Type B development corporations funded by a sales tax up to 0.5%. The Rosenberg Development Corporation is a Type B corporation. Type A and B corporations each permit the expenditure of local sales tax funds for different types of economic development projects, though in general, Type B corporations have fewer restrictions on the use of funds than do Type A corporations.

The **Rosenberg Development Corporation** (RDC) was established through public referendum as a "Type B" Economic Development Corporation in 1995 and is allocated one-half cent of the City's sales tax proceeds to invest in projects that promote or develop new or expanding business and commerce, create jobs, and improve the quality of life in the community.



Some of the approved expenditures Type B corporations may make include: improvements to land or construction of buildings, equipment and facilities for the retention and creation of primary jobs; job training classes and career centers; infrastructure and utilities assistance and improvements; light rail, commuter rail or motor buses; enhancements to a community's quality of life (i.e. parks, arts and culture, beautification efforts, etc.); and rail ports and facilities, marine ports and inland ports.

The sales tax that is generated throughout the City helps to fund infrastructure improvements, enhances the quality of life for residents, and improves the surroundings in which businesses prosper. These improvements also make Rosenberg more attractive to businesses looking to relocate to the region or expand their current facilities.

Economic development initiatives contribute to a cycle through which locally-spent dollars are collected and reallocated toward projects that improve the quality of life of the community as a whole, thereby increasing the likelihood that more dollars will be generated which can then be reinvested to complete further improvements.

The primary mission of municipal economic development is to recruit, retain and encourage the expansion of primary employers in the city. In order to achieve these goals, the Texas Legislature allows for the creation of development corporations to fund projects related to the development of business in cities. One of the ways that an economic development corporation can improve a city's economic condition is through the use of **targeted infrastructure improvements**.

Adequate and reliable infrastructure is a requirement for any commercial enterprise. Infrastructure types that can be improved or constructed via corporation funding include streets, rail, drainage, water facilities/transmission lines, electrical transmission lines, and sewage facilities/transmission lines. This type of funding allows for the city and the development corporation to provide these services independently from other funding sources that are typically strained, such as a city's general funds.

Infrastructure improvement projects can be associated with the requirements of a specific business, or may be undertaken in order to provide for the expected future needs of a commercial area. When planning for future growth, City staff and Rosenberg Development Corporation (RDC) Directors attempt to anticipate future infrastructure requirements so that the needs of our business community, present and future, can be quickly and efficiently met.

Through targeted expenditures, the RDC helps lay the groundwork for future business development and growth in the City of Rosenberg. Keep an eye out in the INSIDER in upcoming months for a glimpse into what one-half cent "buys" through the RDC for Rosenberg. The RDC Board of Directors meets on the second Thursday of each month at the Rosenberg Civic Center. The public is encouraged to attend these meetings. For more information, please visit **RosenbergEcoDev.com** or call (832) 595-3330.

Rosenberg Adopts Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 Budget and Tax Rate

Rosenberg City Council adopted the City's FY 2013 Budget at its September 4, 2012 City Council Meeting, including the tax year 2012 property tax rate of \$0.51 per \$100 valuation. The FY 2013 Budget maintains compliance with the City's reserve requirements while providing for the needs of Rosenberg's citizens and employees. The FY 2013 Budget continues the City's one percent (1%) Homestead Exemption previously adopted by City Council.

The FY 2013 Budget, which makes appropriations for the City of Rosenberg from October 1, 2012, through September 30, 2013, serves as a policy document for the City establishing community priorities, goals, and programs for the upcoming fiscal year. The FY 2013 Budget contains appropriations necessary to achieve specific service levels, functions and activities essential to the accomplishment of the City's stated mission: To provide citizens with an enhanced quality of life through public service that ensures the continuance of our small town values while maintaining standards of accountability and open-mindedness that are ethically and consistently applied.

Because City Council maintained a flat tax rate in response to the overall economy from 2009 to 2011, Rosenberg currently faces a challenge to provide a sufficient number of police officers to catch up with increasing calls for service. Rosenberg Police Department calls for service per officer have increased nearly 32% from 2009 (1,406 calls per officer) to 2011 (1,851 calls per officer). This increase occurred over the same time period that the City's tax rate remained steady at \$0.50. The tax increase included in the FY 2013 Budget will allow the City to hire three additional officers to assist in handling the increase in service calls and maintaining the current quality of services provided to Rosenberg residents and businesses.

The FY2013 Budget includes construction of Fire Station Number 3, purchase of a new fire pumper truck, and the addition of nine (9) new firefighter positions to operate the new station. This is part of the City's plan to improve fire services and further reduce the City's fire insurance (ISO) rating. Fire Station Number 3 will be located on FM 2977 and should open in Summer 2013.

According to Fort Bend Central Appraisal District data, the average taxable value of a residence homestead in the City of Rosenberg is currently \$97,906. The \$0.01 increase will cost home owners, based on an assessed home value of \$100,000, an additional \$10 per year, and will generate approximately \$155,000 in general fund revenue for the City of Rosenberg. The rate of \$0.51 for tax year 2012 represents a 2.19% increase from tax year 2011, but an 8% decrease from tax year 2006.

The FY 2013 Budget provides for the provision of basic public services and debt service obligations for capital improvements. Its primary revenue sources are local sales tax, City property taxes, and user fees (e.g. garbage, water and wastewater). Overall, the FY 2013 operating budget is balanced and provides for approximately \$50.45 million in overall expenditures, including \$22.4 million in general fund expenditures, \$10.9 million in water/wastewater fund expenditures, \$7.6 million in special revenue fund expenditures, and \$6.6 million in debt service fund expenditures.

Additionally, the FY 2013 Budget maintains the City's commitment to continue its aggressive capital improvements program with "roll-over" funding included for: a new animal shelter; Bamore Road phase three; downtown building renovation; Dry Creek drainage; Fire Station Number Three; north side sanitary sewer improvements phase VII; Rosenberg Development Corporation park improvements; Seabourne Creek Drainage phase three; street overlay/reconstruction program; Terry High School reuse project; Water Plant Number Five expansion; and a portable generator for Water/Wastewater.

Continued on next page...

***Join us for a "Rosenberg Update "
with Mayor Vincent M. Morales, Jr.***

Monday, October 29, 2012

7 p.m. @ the Civic Center

**Come hear what is in store for the City in the coming
year and how the City is working for you!**



FY 2013 Budget Continued...

New capital projects to be initiated in 2013 include replacement of the city's public safety communications system, new sidewalks at elementary schools, and repairs to existing sidewalks.

The FY 2013 Water/Wastewater Fund is self-supporting, and the City has been able to reduce the debt service portion of the property tax rate due to retirement of higher interest debt service obligations. Although the Water/Wastewater Fund has improved significantly, it continues to be underfunded to meet future surface water conversion requirements. The City will need to continue to adjust rates to cover costs associated with the surface water conversion project and continued capital improvements required to meet the 2016 groundwater reduction deadline.

The biggest challenge the City continues to face is meeting the increasing service needs of an expanding Rosenberg community. While the City's revenues are beginning to increase, the challenge remains for City Council and staff to maximize the use of available financial resources. One thing that helps meet these challenges is continued economic development and diversification of our local economy, which helps relieve some of the tax burden on residents by adding value to the City's tax rolls and by generating sales tax. The City's financial outlook is improving - as of June 30, 2012, the City's sales tax revenues are up nine percent (9%) from receipts through the same period in FY 2012, and the tax base reflects new development.

For more information on the City's budget, please visit www.ci.rosenberg.tx.us. A copy of the budget is available for review on the City's website, or in the City Secretary's office by calling (832) 595-3340.

Mark Your Calendar!

Blume Road Reopening Celebration - Tuesday, October 23, 2012

The City of Rosenberg will have a brief reopening celebration at Macario Garcia Park, 716 Blume Road, at **5 p.m.** to commemorate the reopening of Blume Road after completion of the Blume Road Improvement Project. For more information, please visit CityofRosenberg.com or call (832) 595-3301.

City of Rosenberg Boo-berg Halloween Carnival - Saturday, October 27, 2012

BOO-berg will be held at Seabourne Creek Nature Park from **10 a.m. to 12 noon**. The free event is intended to give children aged 10 and under an opportunity to come out and enjoy the park while participating in fun and safe games and activities with prizes and giveaways. Children must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, please visit CityofRosenberg.com or call (832) 595-3520.

City of Rosenberg Update with Mayor Vincent M. Morales, Jr. - Monday, October 29, 2012

The City will host a public event at the Rosenberg Civic Center at **7 p.m.** to provide an update to residents on the state of the City, and to give an overview of what projects are in store for the coming year. Visit the City website for more information.

Public Meeting on Downtown Building - Tuesday, October 30, 2012

Rosenberg City Council will hold a special meeting at **6 p.m.** to receive public comments on proposed improvements to the former City Hall building located at Avenue H and 4th Street. Exhibits prepared by the City's architect will be on display for review. Public comments will be heard before City Council discusses options for the building. Visit the City website for more information.

Prairie Heritage Festival - Saturday, November 3, 2012

Join the Coastal Prairie Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists at their first annual Prairie Heritage Festival from **10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** at Rosenberg's Seabourne Creek Nature Park. Bring your family and enjoy food and drinks, performers, exhibits with live animals including owls, birds, alligators and turtles (to name just a few), the beauty that is Seabourne Creek Nature Park, and tours of all the area has to offer! Visit coastalprairie.org for more information, or call (281) 633-7042.

Hunting for Homes Mega Pet Adoption - Saturday, November 3, 2012

Rosenberg Animal Control will once again join forces with Fort Bend County and other area animal service agencies for this year's Hunting For Homes Mega Pet Adoption from **10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds, Building B. Pets will be available for adoption for a \$40 fee (discounted to \$20 for senior citizens over 60), which includes a wellness check, spay/neuter, initial vaccinations, and a microchip.

RESIDENTS WARNED ABOUT COMPANIES MISREPRESENTING THEMSELVES AS AFFILIATED WITH THE CITY

The City of Rosenberg has received notification that unaffiliated companies may be misrepresenting themselves as being affiliated with the City of Rosenberg to provide services such as water testing and/or water and sewer line protection programs.

The City is not currently affiliated in any way with any company providing the above services.

Citizens with questions regarding the viability of companies claiming to be associated with the City of Rosenberg are encouraged to contact Citizen Relations at (832) 595-3301.

Image Committee

October BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS

Landscape:

Sue Diggs
1408 Ward Street

Ruth MacClellan
1809 Brazos Street

Sabas Matias
1709 Houston Street

Frances Zipprian
2704 Parrott Avenue

Renovation:

Bull Creek Café
918 San Jacinto

Wendy's
27943 Southwest Freeway





FIGHT THE BITE!

Protect yourself from West Nile Virus by remembering the 4 Ds:

1. DUSK/DAWN is when mosquitoes are most active. Try your best to stay indoors. If you do go out, use repellent.

2. DRESS in long sleeves and pants if you go out in active periods. For extra protection, spray clothes and exposed areas with repellent.

3. DEET is an ingredient to look for in your repellent. Other acceptable repellents include oil of lemon eucalyptus, or picaridin.

4. DRAIN any standing water in your yard. Mosquitoes love to breed in stagnant water.

Residents must be proactive to decrease their West Nile risk.

Although the City sprays to help keep the mosquito population under control, it takes everyone doing their part to lessen the risk of acquiring diseases mosquitoes can carry.

For information regarding the City's mosquito spraying program, contact Citizen Relations at 832-595-3301.

Visit cdc.gov for additional information on the prevention of the West Nile Virus.

Fencing Classes Offered at the Civic Center!

The City of Rosenberg is happy to offer FENCING classes at the Rosenberg Civic Center through a partnership with Fort Bend Fencing Academy. Fort Bend Fencing Academy teaches basic fencing through tactical technique, footwork instruction, blade instruction, and bouting.



Classes are held on Mondays from 6 to 9 p.m., and Wednesday classes will be coming soon! Interested individuals will need to register and pay per month at the Rosenberg Civic Center. Classes are currently \$85/person for the first month, and \$75/person for each month thereafter. A class flyer, registration form and liability waiver are available on the City's website. Contact Lydia Acosta, Recreation Programs Coordinator, at lydiaa@ci.rosenberg.tx.us or (832) 595-3520 with questions.

Citizen Relations Coordinator Named Employee of the Month

As the contact person at the City of Rosenberg for all citizen concerns, Citizen Relations Coordinator Karyn Zwahr deserves a pat on the back all year long, but even more so when the City recently switched to an automated cart service for solid waste and recycling.

Karyn has attended to all citizens who called in or arrived at City Hall in person to express their concerns or issues with the carts or the new trash service schedule, and has handled each incident with the utmost professionalism to ensure that each resident's concern was appropriately handled. Almost every situation involved coordinating with other City staff and Republic Services for an effective resolution, a task Karyn accomplished most effectively.

Karyn demonstrated a willingness to maintain a high level of customer service, not only to the residents of Rosenberg, but also to fellow employees, through the solid waste transition. She was nominated by her peers to be recognized as the City of Rosenberg's Employee of the Month for her excellent service and commitment. Thank you, Karyn, for your example of outstanding customer service – keep up the good work!

Pictured with Karyn are - Cyndy Powell, Assistant to the City Manager, and Jack Hamlett, City Manager.



America Recycles Day is November 15

Since 1997, communities across the country have come together on November 15 to celebrate America Recycles Day, a project of Keep America Beautiful. America Recycles Day is a day to educate and motivate; a day to get our neighbors, friends and community leaders excited about what can be accomplished when we all work together; a day to make recycling bigger and better 365 days a year. Get involved and let's work together to make recycling bigger and better in the coming year.



The national recycling rate has increased every year since 1980. The current recycling rate is 34%. JOIN US IN RECYCLING MORE. Consider making the following pledge for America Recycles Day 2012: "I pledge to: Learn. I will find out what materials are collected for recycling in my community at americarecyclesday.org. Act. Reduce my personal waste by recycling. Within the next month, I will recycle more." Visit americarecyclesday.org to find out more and to join the thousands of others who have pledged to make a difference.

Recycling turns materials that would otherwise become waste into valuable resources. Collecting used bottles, cans, and newspapers and taking them to the curb is just the first in a series of steps that generates a host of financial, environmental, and social returns.

Rosenberg recently began regular weekly recycle collection. Every resident is encouraged to do your part to keep recyclable materials out of landfills by utilizing the roll-out carts provided for this purpose. Please refer to the list that was provided with the delivery of your cart in order to take full advantage of this weekly service. The cart for recycling (green lid) is serviced every Wednesday.

One of the most common reasons Americans give for not recycling is that they don't know how, when, where and what to recycle in their communities. If you have questions about recycling or would like more information, please contact Citizen Relations at 832-595-3301, or email karynz@ci.rosenberg.tx.us.

Residents are encouraged to take hazardous materials, electronics and tires to the Fort Bend Recycle Center at 1200 Blume Road. Call 281-633-7581 for more information.

Source: americarecyclesday.org

ROSENBERG DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



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What a ½ Cent Buys!

In the City of Rosenberg, sales tax is collected at a rate of 8 ¼ cents and is distributed in the following manner: 6 ¼ cents to the State of Texas, and 2 cents to the City of Rosenberg. Of the 2 cents the City receives, ½ cent goes to the Rosenberg Development Corporation (RDC), ½ cent goes toward lowering property taxes; and 1 cent goes toward general fund expenses. The RDC reinvests its ½ cent into economic development activities that seek to improve the economic condition of our community.

The **Rosenberg Development Corporation (RDC)** was established through public referendum as a "Type B" Economic Development Corporation in 1995 and is allocated one-half cent of the City's sales tax proceeds to invest in projects that promote or develop new or expanding business and commerce, create jobs, and improve the quality of life in the community.

Sales tax that is generated throughout the City helps fund infrastructure improvements, enhances the quality of life for residents, and improves the environment in which businesses prosper. These improvements, in turn, help make Rosenberg more attractive to businesses looking to relocate to the region or expand their current facilities. The ½ cent spent by the RDC on projects represents an integral part of the economic development cycle in which locally spent dollars are collected and reallocated toward projects that improve the quality of life and the community as a whole, thereby improving the likelihood that more dollars will be generated which can then be reinvested in further improvements.



Over the years, the ½ cent of the sales tax allocated to the RDC has helped facilitate projects such as the following (not a comprehensive list):

US 59 Frontage Roads: The US 59 frontage roads between FM 2218 and SH 36 were among the first projects tackled by the RDC after the Corporation was formed in 1995. The 1.8 miles of new frontage roads opened in 1999, facilitating new development and improving access to businesses along US 59.

Reading Road Overpass and Extension: In 1997, the RDC funded the construction of an interchange, including on and off ramps, on the north and south sides of US 59 and the Reading Road overpass. This overpass helped make the Brazos Town Center (BTC) development possible in future years. A cooperative project between the City and the RDC in 2003 extended Reading Road to Benton Road, further facilitating development in the surrounding area, and providing direct access to Brazos Town Center and US 59 for the newly developed areas.



Louise Street: The RDC funded the resurfacing of Louise Street as well as the construction of sidewalks along the road.

Reese Road: RDC funds were utilized for the improvement of Reese Road as part of the National Oilwell Varco relocation project. The project also included the extension of 3-phase electrical and natural gas lines in the right-of-way.

Bamore Road: \$1.3 million in RDC funds was utilized to widen Bamore Road from the US 59 frontage road to Klauke Road, increasing road width to four lanes, and improving drainage and safety.

Spacek Road Realignment: The RDC funded drainage improvements along Spacek Road as part of a larger initiative to improve the connectivity of Spacek Road and Reading Road and with Brazos Town Center, and to allow for the expansion of Biotics Research Corporation.



FM 2218: \$1.2 million in RDC funds was leveraged for overall project to widen FM 2218 from US 59 to FM 1640, adding traffic and turn lanes, storm sewers, curb and gutter, and sidewalks, and improving business accessibility.



Neighborhood Park Improvements: The RDC has funded improvements to neighborhood parks, including the addition of walking trails at Travis and Sunset Parks, and other needed upgrades, significantly enhancing the quality of life in Rosenberg neighborhoods.

In the upcoming fiscal year, the RDC will utilize its ½ cent to take on several new projects including: **Pool removal** at Travis and Brazos Parks to include demolition, filling in and landscaping the areas to provide additional green spaces. **Construction of a new basketball court** at Sunset Park as a complement to the existing court at Travis Park. **Construction of a downtown parking area** at the corner of Avenue F and 3rd Street, and partnership with Fort Bend County Transit to build a transit/shuttle station in the same area.



For information on economic development activities, please contact (832) 595-3330.

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CityofRosenberg.com

November/December 2012

Rosenberg INSIDER

City Celebrates Completion of Blume Road Improvements



Members of the Rosenberg City Council joined neighborhood residents, former Councilors and Mayors, and project team members on Tuesday, October 23, to celebrate the completion of the Blume Road Improvement Project.

Construction on the project began in July 2011, and included widening and utility and drainage improvements from Klauke to Spur 529. The completed roadway is now three concrete lanes with a designated center turn lane and curb and gutter. Sidewalks

were constructed down the east side of the roadway for the full project length, and on both sides of the road in the residential sections, for improved pedestrian access. Total project costs are being finalized, but the entire project (right of way acquisition, engineering, testing, construction, etc.), is approximately a \$5 million dollar investment.

Blume Road is designated as "no parking" along both sides of the street, and now that the project is complete, the City is coordinating street lighting upgrades with CenterPoint Energy. The sandbags that still line the roadway are required for storm water pollution prevention, and will be removed once grass has reached the necessary amount of coverage to mitigate runoff.

Joining area residents and project team members for the ribbon cutting were former Rosenberg Mayors Joe Gurecky and Lupe Uresti, Fort Bend County Commissioner Richard Morrison, Mayor Vincent M. Morales, Jr., Councilor Joe Segura, Councilor Cynthia McConathy, Councilor Juan Salazar, Councilor Dwayne Grigar, Councilor Tom Suter, and former Councilor Janie Warstler.

City Hall Gazebo Undergoing "Face-Lift"

If you drive on 4th Street, you may have noticed construction fencing and heavy equipment on the front lawn of City Hall. All for good reason - the Gazebo is undergoing a rehabilitation, including a new tile surround, plaques commemorating donors who helped finance the Gazebo, and new landscaping to be installed as a Keep Rosenberg Beautiful project in November. Come check out the finished project at the Gazebo Lighting on November 28th!



*City offices will be closed
Thursday, November 22, and Friday, November 23, 2012
for Thanksgiving.*

Solid waste services will not be affected by the holiday.



Discounts for Utility Customers Over 65 Years of Age

In this day and age, every penny helps - especially if you are on a fixed income! Make your pennies count by taking advantage of discounts available for utility customers over the age of 65.

Did you know that Rosenberg residents over 65 years of age, with single-family water, sewer, and garbage services in their name, whether owner or non-owner, are eligible for a monthly discount on their utility bill? According to Rosenberg City Ordinance, "Persons over the age of 65 shall receive a discount of \$1.00 on single-family residential water service and \$1.00 on single-family residential sewer service upon application to the customer service department." Additionally, they may also receive a \$.76 monthly discount on garbage service. That's a total of \$2.76 a month, or \$33.12 a year you could be saving!

Individuals must complete an application form to receive this discount!

Forms may be obtained from Customer Service at City Hall, or accessed on the City's website. Individuals must provide a copy of proof of age with the application to be eligible for the discounts. Discounts will be applied on the billing following receipt of the completed application with proof of age. Discounts will not apply to billings prior to the date the application is received.

For more information, or to obtain an application, please contact Customer Service at 832-595-3400, or visit CityofRosenberg.com

Twelve Days of Holiday Safety!

Give your family a safe and happy holiday! It's easy to make safety a part of your holiday with these quick tips. Tackle one each day and you are well on your way to a safe holiday and New Year!

1 - What's that noise? Test your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. Make sure every member of your family knows what to do if they hear them.

2 - What a shocker! Before each use, inspect all electrical lights, decorations, and extension cords for damage. Repair or discard damaged cords and replace burned out lights.

3 - Two's company, three's a crowd. Do not overload outlets with too many decorations or devices.

4 - Is it working? Test your ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) and arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) to make sure they're protecting you.

5 - Ouch! Prevent trips and falls by keeping cords safely along wall edge and out of doorways and high traffic areas. Beware of running cords under rugs where they will be stepped on and can be damaged or frayed.

6 - Kids eat the darndest things! Avoid putting lights, metal hooks, breakable ornaments, and other small decorations within reach of young children.

7 - Thirsty? Keep your live Christmas tree's stand full of water. A fresh, green tree is less of a fire hazard than a dry tree. Dispose of the tree soon after Christmas before it becomes too dry. Take it to a local mulcher or put it out for pickup with your yard waste.

8 - Safe and warm. Keep space heaters at least three feet away from anything that can burn, like decorations, trees, gifts, and curtains. Don't leave them unattended or on overnight.

9 - Can't touch this! Consider installing tamper resistant receptacles (TRRs) or plug in plastic outlet covers to prevent kids from inserting objects into the outlet slots.

10 - Who? What? When? Where? Why? How? Share your family fire escape plan with your overnight guests.

11 - Hot stuff! Keep children at least 3 feet away from cooking appliances. Use back burners and turn pot handles in, away from little hands.

12 - Make a Wish! Blow out all candles before leaving the house, leaving a room, or going to bed.

Source: Electrical Safety Foundation International – <http://esfi.org>



Gazebo Lighting Wed., November 28



This year's *Gazebo Lighting* will be held *Wednesday, November 28*, at City Hall, 2110 4th Street, starting at *6:30 p.m.* The public is encouraged to share in the festivities and help officially kick off Rosenberg's holiday season.

The event will include holiday treats, caroling, and honored guests for the evening - Santa and Mrs. Claus! Parents are encouraged to bring their camera for photographs of their children with Santa and Mrs. Claus.



Visit the City's website for more information, or contact Lydia Acosta, Recreation Programs Coordinator at (832)-595-3520.

Image Committee

November BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS

Landscape:

Arnold & Yessenia Alaniz
7519 Summer Night Lane

Donald & Ellen Blank
2515 Diamond River Drive

Shane & Katrina Blume
2007 Spacek Road

Jorge Tejada & Sylvia Yanira
7719 Summer Night Lane

Renovation:

Patrick & Patricia Spillers
1116 Millie Street



Rosenberg Fire Department Completes Driver Simulator Training



If you drove by Rosenberg Fire Station No. 1 in late September, you may have noticed a trailer parked on the side of the building. This was not just an ordinary trailer, it was the MPRI Fire Sim Driving Simulator provided by the Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX). TEEX is traveling across the State providing driver training to fire departments.

The trailer houses three 50-inch HD display screens that provide forward and side views, and the simulator has an instrument panel and all the controls of a fire truck, including brake and accelerator pedals, adjustable rear view mirrors and the steering wheel has vibrations and resistance feedback when a curb is hit or a flat tire occurs. Using software driving scenarios, the instructor is able to provide realistic scenarios for the firefighters to train with.

"We are really excited to have been able to have the Simulator here at our department. Because of its high demand from departments across Texas, it is very hard to schedule. The simulator is just like sitting in the driver's seat of a fire truck, and being able to practice driving through a busy intersection, or in rain is not something that can be done in a real setting. Participating in this enhanced training allows our firefighters to experience various weather or visibility challenges without harm," said Rosenberg Fire Chief Wade Goates.

Christmas in Rosenberg is Saturday, December 1



Get in the holiday spirit as you stroll the streets of Historic Downtown Rosenberg, and delight in the sights and sounds of the season at this year's *Christmas in Rosenberg* scheduled for *Saturday, December 1*, from *12 p.m. to 9 p.m.*

Christmas in Rosenberg will feature holiday entertainment from local community, school and church groups, and Imperial Arts; visits and photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus; gift, craft, and food vendors; a children's carnival hosted by the Rosenberg Railroad Museum; trackless

train rides for the kids; and Rosenberg's wonderful downtown merchants, eateries and attractions. Join us downtown for a delightful, free evening, jam-packed with the sights and sounds of the holidays!

Visit the City's website, or contact Camille Prat, Marketing and Tourism Assistant at (832) 595-3525 for more information.

City Events Provide Opportunities to Learn and Play

National Night Out, Fire Prevention Week Open House, & BOO-berg provided great opportunities for fun and learning for Rosenberg families!



Top row (L to R): Rosenberg Police Department cruiser on display at National Night Out. Helicopter crew gets ready for crowds at National Night Out. Holy Rosary Volunteer at BOO-berg.

Second row: Council and members of Rosenberg public safety staff gather for a quick photo with organizers of Summer Lakes National Night Out neighborhood event. Sgt. Billy Hammack makes his way into the Summer Lakes neighborhood party. Coastal Prairie Chapter Texas Master Naturalist volunteer gives a quick lesson on animal skulls at BOO-berg.

Bottom row: Children prepare to complete the Rosenberg Fire Department's fire safety obstacle course at National Night Out. Crowds gather for to visit and play at Councilor William Benton's neighborhood National Night Out party. Sparky leads children in a dance outside Fire Station No. 1 at the Fire Department's Fire Prevention Week Open House.

ROSENBERG DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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Center for the Arts Prepares for Grand Opening in Historic Downtown Rosenberg



RDC board members Bill Knesek and Vincent Morales recently joined Economic Development Director Matt Fielder, and Imperial Arts board member Kelly Ferguson for a tour of Rosenberg's new Center for the Arts, led by Imperial Arts Executive Director Edward Crowell III, and Imperial Arts Visual Arts and Education Director Robyn Miller. Imperial Arts is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit professional arts organization. They have developed and produced a full range of performing and visual arts, as well as arts education in greater Fort Bend County since 2008.

Finishing touches are being completed on the building located at 823 3rd

Street in Rosenberg's Historic Downtown in preparation for the grand opening celebration to be held November 16 and 17. Completion of the Center for the Arts represents accomplishment of a significant step in the RDC's performance agreement with the group to develop a performing and cultural arts program in Historic Downtown Rosenberg. Following completion of the Center for the Arts, the agreement calls for Imperial Arts to restore and re-open the historic Cole Theatre by the end of 2014, allowing for more elaborate performances.



The building that houses the Center for the Arts was built in the late 1950s by Duke & Ayers, has served as home to a number of retail and service companies, and was most recently a book store. After an extensive renovation, the space will reopen as the Center for the Arts and will include *The Imperial Theatre* - a 130-seat performance space, *The Imperial Gallery* - a visual arts gallery, space for *The Imperial Arts Academy*, two lobbies, restroom facilities for patrons, a green room and dressing rooms for performers, storage, and administrative offices.

The new Center for the Arts will serve as Imperial Arts' home and performance space for the 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 performance seasons which will include visual arts gallery shows, jazz and classical music performances, choral music, plays, ballet, lectures, and a film series. Imperial Arts' partnerships for the 2012-2013 season include the Houston Chamber Choir, the Houston Symphony, and Rosenberg's own CAST Theatrical, all of which will complement Imperial Arts' productions and artists. Upcoming productions include December 1-2, "Lend Me a Tenor"; December 7 - 9, "A Christmas Evening"; December 15, "It's a Wonderful Life"; December 21 - 22, "Polar Express". For more details on upcoming events and schedules, please visit www.theimperial.org.

Imperial Arts is hosting public grand opening events on November 16 (adults) and November 17 (families and children). The Friday, November 16th event will run from 6 to 9 p.m. and will include live music by the Marvin Gaspard Trio and classical Spanish guitarist Frank Rodriguez, refreshments, and announcements regarding the upcoming season. On Saturday, November 17th, events will focus on families and children and will run from 12 to 2 p.m. The Saturday events will include live music by blues guitarist Frank Matta, concessions, and an art project for children to create their own "Imperial Mask."

The Grand Opening events are free and open to the public - be sure to mark your calendars and stop by to get a taste of the many wonderful things in store for Rosenberg! For more information, visit www.theimperial.org, or call (281) 277-7444.



Pictured above (top to bottom): Ed Crowell III demonstrates stage height to the group. Bill Knesek discusses the building's facade. Robyn Miller describes The Imperial Gallery space. Matt Fielder, Bill Knesek, Mayor Morales, Ed Crowell III, Robyn Miller and Kelly Ferguson take a break for a photo next to the design schematic.

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CityofRosenberg.com

December 2012/January 2013

Rosenberg INSIDER

City Awarded Membership in Union Pacific's Train Town USA Registry

Rosenberg Mayor Vincent M. Morales, Jr., joined Congressman Pete Olson and Rosenberg Railroad Museum President Bill Rickert on Monday, November 26, at the Rosenberg Railroad Museum to accept a "Train Town USA" designation from Union Pacific (UP) railroad representatives for Rosenberg. Joe Adams, UP Pacific Vice President for Public Affairs, and Juan M. Carreon, UP Assistant Vice President for Public Affairs, presented a resolution and shield to the City, on behalf of UP Chairman James R. Young, as part of the Railroad's 150th Anniversary celebrations to commemorate UP and Rosenberg's shared history.

Rosenberg Mayor, Vincent M. Morales, Jr. stated, *"Railroad history is an integral part of Rosenberg's history. Railroads helped make Rosenberg the Hub of the Gulf Coast, and will continue to play a key role in our future. Our prime logistic location relative to the ports of Houston and Freeport, to Interstate 10 and US 59, and at the intersection of three major rail lines, continues to be a driver of development. Rosenberg is proud of our 129 years of shared history with Union Pacific, and excited about the chapters yet to write together in our future!"*

Union Pacific was created when President Abraham Lincoln signed the Pacific Railway Act in 1862, and the City of Rosenberg was founded in 1883 at the intersection of the New York, Texas and Mexican, the Santa Fe, and the Southern Pacific rail lines. Today, three major rail companies still operate in Rosenberg, including Union Pacific, Burlington Northern Santa Fe, and Kansas City Southern.

Congressman Pete Olson said, *"Congratulations to the City of Rosenberg for this recognition. Union Pacific and Rosenberg share an important history that has benefitted our region by connecting commerce with people, bringing business and growing industry through their partnership. This designation adds a unique, historic component to Rosenberg's rich history and I'm honored to represent 'Train Town, USA.'"*

Pictured are (top to bottom): Bill Rickert, Rosenberg Railroad Museum President; Mayor Vincent M. Morales, Jr.; Joe Adams, Union Pacific, Juan M. Carreon, Union Pacific; and Congressman Pete Olson in front of the Tower 17 switching tower at the Rosenberg Railroad Museum in Historic Downtown Rosenberg.



*The City of Rosenberg wishes you and
yours a safe and happy Holiday Season!*

Keep Rosenberg Beautiful Volunteers Landscape City Hall Gazebo

Thanks to the generous donations of area nurseries and the contribution of time and energy of thirteen volunteers, the old and dying landscaping around the City Hall Gazebo has been entirely replaced with plants and flowers that already add a touch of color to the scene.

Keep Rosenberg Beautiful is grateful to the following sponsors who contributed plants and supplies for the landscaping project that took place on November 7: Enchanted Nurseries and Landscapes, GreenScape Associates, Living Earth, Papershell (Nursery), Republic Services and South Texas Medical Clinics.



The landscaping was the final phase of a rehabilitation of the gazebo that included replacement of surrounding tiles, painting, sodding of replacement grass and installation of memorial plaques for original donors who financed the gazebo.

The entire project was completed in time for the Gazebo Lighting on November 28, and will be enjoyed by visitors and residents of Rosenberg for years to come. Thank you to all who helped make this project a success!

County-wide Hunting for Homes Mega Adoption Event a Success

The second county-wide pet adoption event coordinated by the Animal Services Agencies of Fort Bend County was held on November 3. The event was an overwhelming success: 65 dogs and 10 cats found loving homes. The event would not have been possible without the hard work of staff from area Animal Services Agencies, including Rosenberg. A number of local individuals, businesses and veterinary clinics contributed to making the event a huge success, and many volunteers helped by fostering pets before the event and assisting at the event.

The cats that did not find homes during the event can be viewed on the "Hunting for Homes" Facebook page. Please note that these cats are spayed and neutered, vaccinated, microchipped, and have had an initial medical check-up. The cost is \$40. For more information, call Sugar Land Animal Services at 281-275-ADOG (2364). If you are still looking for a family pet, be sure and visit the Rosenberg Animal Shelter at 1207 Blume Road.



Holiday Shopping Safety Tips



The Rosenberg Police Department is preparing for the holiday season by increasing their presence in targeted areas of our community to deter criminals enticed by increased numbers of shoppers and visitors. Through community partnerships and detailed crime-analysis, the RPD strives diligently to lower crime and increase public safety every day of the year.

Don't be a Victim!

- Always be aware of your surroundings
- Keep cash to a minimum – use credit cards
- Keep records of credit card numbers and report theft or compromise immediately
 - Don't wear expensive jewelry shopping
- Don't be distracted by talking on a phone or listening to headphones
- Have vehicle keys in hand and alarm button ready BEFORE you leave the store
 - Continuously scan area while loading children & packages
 - Look for & report suspicious people or vehicles
 - ALWAYS lock your vehicle
 - Don't leave valuables in sight
- If approached by a subject with a weapon – don't argue or resist; your life is worth more than anything...however, if you are being forced into a vehicle with the suspect, FIGHT BACK!

City of Rosenberg Holiday Closures

All municipal facilities
will be closed:



Christmas Eve & Christmas

Monday, December 24 &
Tuesday, December 25

Green waste will be collected
as regularly scheduled
on Monday 12/24.

Bulky pickup scheduled
for Tuesday 12/25 will be
picked up on Wednesday
12/26 with regular garbage
and recycling service.



New Year's Day

Tuesday, January 1

Bulky items will be picked
up as regularly scheduled
on Tuesday 1/1.

Contact Citizen Relations at
832-595-3301 with inquiries.

**May your holidays
be merry & bright!**

Image Committee

December BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS

Landscape:

First Presbyterian Church
Serenity Garden
1400 Radio Lane

Art & Melissa Gonzalez
5111 Oakbriar Lane

**Chad McCarty &
Tiffany Buddin**
1028 Timber Lane

Victor & Dalila Perlera
1202 Nanterre Court

Jose & Maria Torres
2321 Teresa Drive





Volunteering at the City of Rosenberg - An Update from REVV

The City of Rosenberg is in full swing with its recently-formed volunteer program, R.E.V.V. - "Rosenberg Encourages Vital Volunteerism." We continue to encourage residents to become more involved in the life of the City through beautification and improvement projects, and a number of volunteers have already come forward to donate their time and energy to complete projects.

Keep Rosenberg Beautiful (KRB) has completed two beautification projects over the past year including landscaping of a large bed at Sunset Park and around the City Hall Gazebo. Another project is being planned through KRB for Travis and Garcia Parks for the spring of 2013. Be on the lookout for the announcement and consider joining us as we work to improve the Rosenberg community!

Volunteers make a valuable contribution to the activities of the City and the services we provide. Volunteers are currently working alongside City staff in the Police Department and the Planning Department to provide the highest quality of municipal services possible to our community. Additionally, without the participation of volunteers, City-hosted events such as FISH-tastic, the Easter Egg Hunt, Family 4th, BOO-Berg, the City Hall Gazebo Lighting and Christmas in Rosenberg would be difficult to carry out.

Other volunteer opportunities are currently available. Regardless of your schedule and time limitations, there is a place for you in the City's volunteer program, whether it is for a single-day event such as those mentioned above, or in an office where you might dedicate a few hours each week. To view current volunteer opportunities and complete a volunteer application, visit the City's web site or contact Barbara Vick, Volunteer Coordinator, at 832-595-3323, or by email at barbarav@ci.rosenberg.tx.us.



Save Energy While You Prepare Your Holiday Feast

Baking pies, roasting a turkey and warming up the side dishes for your family's holiday feast can be hard on your electric bill if you rely on your oven to do all the work. This Christmas, consider using your stove top, barbecue grill, microwave oven, slow cooker, toaster oven, electric skillet or even your blender or food processor to prepare your bird and all the trimmings.

Here are some tips for a more energy-efficient feast:

- Give your oven a break and your family a treat by frying, grilling or smoking your turkey outdoors. The smoky flavor can be a nice change from a traditional oven-roasted turkey.
- Use the microwave oven to heat up vegetables, potatoes and other side dishes.
- Consider serving some foods that don't need cooking. The turkey, stuffing and potatoes will be nice and hot. Add some variety to the menu by preparing a few cold salads and raw vegetables with dip. Experiment with no-bake desserts, like frozen peanut butter pie or no-bake cheesecake.
- When you do use the oven, resist opening the door to check on the food. Every time you open the door, you let heat out and the oven has to work harder to get back to the proper temperature. Use the window and light instead.
- Bake everything at the same time: pies, bread, turkey, potatoes. The more your oven can do at once, the less time you'll need to use it. Leave enough room between items for air and heat to circulate.
- Choose glass or ceramic pans for the oven. They cook food at temperatures as much as 25 degrees lower than metal pans.
- The burners on your cooktop will work more efficiently if you match the size of the burner to the size of the pot. Placing a small pot on a larger burner wastes the heat from the part of the burner that doesn't touch the pot.
- Clean the burners and the oven. There's no need for your appliance to spend any energy heating spilled, baked-on food that you haven't cleaned up yet. If you make a habit of using the self-cleaning function on your oven while it's still hot after you use it, it will use the residual heat and work more quickly.
- When cleaning up, if you use a dishwasher, wait until it's full to turn it on. If you have to rinse dried-on food from dishes beforehand, use cold water only.
- If washing dishes by hand in a divided sink, plug the drains and fill one side with warm, soapy water and the other with clear rinse water, and turn the faucet off. You will save hot water and energy.

ROSENBERG DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



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Meet your RDC Board of Directors

The Rosenberg Development Corporation (RDC) was established through public referendum as a "Type B" Economic Development Corporation in 1995 and is allocated one-half cent of the City's sales tax proceeds to invest in projects that promote or develop new or expanding business and commerce, create jobs, and improve the quality of life in the community. The RDC is governed by a Board of seven Directors and meets on the second Thursday of each month at 4 p.m. at the Rosenberg Civic Center. The public is encouraged to attend these meetings. RDC meeting agendas are available at RosenbergEcoDev.com. For more information, please contact the City's Economic Development Department at 832-595-3330.

Citizen Directors (4)



Bill Knesek was appointed to the Rosenberg Development Corporation in June 2004 and currently serves as President. After graduating from Lamar Consolidated High School in Rosenberg, he went on to graduate from the University of Houston. In 1994, Knesek retired from the Texas Department of Transportation to become the City of Rosenberg's first Economic Development Director. Bill Knesek is the owner of Southwestern Economics, LLC.



Allen Scopel was appointed to the RDC Board in June 2004 and currently serves as Treasurer. He obtained a Bachelor of Business Administration from Texas A&M University and is certified as an Enrolled Agent by the Internal Revenue Service, as a Personal Financial Planner by the University of Houston, and is a Texas Notary Public. Mr. Scopel served in the Texas and California National Guards and is a member of the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas.



Janie Gonzales Warstler has served on the Rosenberg Development Corporation since June 2006 and currently serves as Vice President. Prior to her appointment on the RDC, Warstler served as City Councilor for District 2 from May 1999 to 2005. Previous to her terms on Council, she served on various boards and committees in the community. Warstler graduated from Lamar CISD and attended WCJC. She is a third generation Rosenberg resident.



Laurie Cook was appointed to the RDC Board in June 2012 and currently serves as Secretary. She has worked for the City of Sugar Land for thirteen years and has extensive experience with budgeting and accounting. Ms. Cook is a native of Rosenberg and has served as a volunteer for a variety of community groups and City committees including the Seabourne Creek Park Advisory Task Force, the Rosenberg Parks Board and as President of the Rosenberg National Little League.

Council Directors (3)



Mayor Vincent M. Morales, Jr. was elected on May 14, 2011. Mayor Morales is the Senior Vice President and co-owner of GreenScape Associates, LLC, a locally based landscape management / design / build firm. Mayor Morales is active in the Central Fort Bend Chamber Alliance, the Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce, the Lamar Educational Awards Foundation (LEAF), the Rosenberg Railroad Museum, the Child Advocates Board, and the Oakbend Medical Advisory Board, along with numerous other community organizations. Until his election as Mayor, he served on the West Fort Bend Management District Board of Directors.



Councilor Tom Suter was elected to represent City Council District 4, in May 2005 and was appointed to the RDC Board in June 2005. He obtained a BA from St. Mary's University, San Antonio, Texas, and is a Certified Crime Prevention Specialist, Texas Crime Prevention Association. Mr. Suter serves as Parish Business Administrator for the Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Rosenberg. His long list of community service includes Chair of the Rosenberg Planning and Zoning Commission, and membership on various committees and advisory councils at the City, Texas State Technical College, Lamar CISD, and Holy Rosary Catholic Church.



Councilor Dwayne Grigar was elected to represent City Council District 3, in May 2003 and was appointed to the RDC Board in June 2011. He graduated from Wharton County Junior College and TSTI, Waco. Mr. Grigar works as a Fort Bend County Drainage Engineer Assistant and is a member of the Texas Floodplain Management Association. He served on the Rosenberg Planning and Zoning Commission and various other City-related committees and boards.

Willie Daniel McQueen Jr. Employees of the Year Honored



The City's annual Employee Awards Luncheon held Wednesday, December 8, 2010, was titled, "You Make a World of Difference." The event was held at the Rosenberg Civic Center, and culminated in ten (10) employees being recognized as recipients of the prestigious Willie Daniel McQueen Jr. Employee of the Year Award.

The City's Employee of the Year awards, designed to recognize those employees who go above and beyond the call of duty in providing services that enrich the City and community, were renamed in the memory of Rosenberg Police Sergeant, Willie Daniel McQueen Jr. after his death

in 2005. Members of Officer McQueen's family including daughter, Alexandria McQueen; mother, Martha McQueen; sisters, Mardra Dawson and Brundretta Dawson; and Father-in-law, Charles Taylor, were honored guests at the luncheon and assisted in handing out the awards to employees. Mardra Dawson and Alexandria McQueen are pictured above presenting an award to Diane Zepeda, with Chief Robert Gracia looking on.

Employees receiving 2010 recognition are pictured below with City Manager Jack Hamlett, Mayor Joe Gurecky, members of the McQueen family and Police Chief Robert Gracia. They include (left to right): Officer **Daniel Segura** - Police Department (School Resource Officer), Officer **Daryl Segura** - Police Department (School Resource Officer), Sergeant **Chad Pino** - Police Department (School Resource Sergeant), **Leroy Lopez**, Street Department (Light Equipment Operator), **John Villarreal** - Fire Department (Fire Inspector), **Melissa Pena**, Public Works (Project Director), **Patrick Neal** - Fire Department (Firefighter), **Tiffany Ybarra**, City Manager's Office (Administrative Assistant), **Luis Garza**, Finance (Payroll Specialist), and **Diane Zepeda**, Personnel (Administrative Assistant).

The employees receiving 2010 awards were recognized for efforts including apprehending burglary suspects during or immediately after the crimes were committed, coming to the aid of a Meals on Wheels client and providing emergency assistance until EMS arrived, progress, initiating a City recycling and office supply share program, and assisting with training related to the National Incident Management System (to name a few).

Congratulations to the 2010 Willie Daniel McQueen Jr. Employees of the Year!



City Employees Honored for Years of Service

Employees were honored at the 2010 Employee Awards luncheon for their years of dedicated service to the City of Rosenberg. Service awards were presented in the following categories:



Most Years of Service (left to right):

Mayor Joe Gurecky, Karl Zwahr (33 yrs.), Robert Gracia (30 yrs.), George Velasquez (30 yrs.), Dallis Warren (31 yrs.), Daryl Hartmann (32 yrs.), City Manager Jack Hamlett



30 Years of Service:

Robert Gracia, George Velasquez



25 Years of Service:

Luis Aparicio, Wayne Jetelina



20 Years of Service:

Jeffrey Schumann, Linda Dominguez, Darrell Himly



15 Years of Service:

Wade Goates, Patrick Jasek, Randall Leonhardt, David Salinas; not pictured - Isidro Najera



10 Years of Service:

James Baker; not pictured - Roberto Garza, Laurence Gobar, Sebastian Munoz, Aaron Slater, and Dwain Ustynik



5 Years of Service:

Abel Gamino, Patrick Neal, Frances Frelich, Tiffany Ybarra, Ewald Stein; not pictured - Joseph Becerra, Cheston Zwahr

O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree...

Christmas Tree Pick-Up Guidelines

Now that the holidays are a thing of the past, how can you get rid of your tree?

Rosenberg residents have a couple options:

Republic Services will collect trees at the curb, preferably on the second garbage day of the week. There are no special provisions for picking up trees; they just need to be placed out at the curb with the garbage. Trees will be disposed of with regular waste by Republic.

Residents desiring a quicker, more "green" approach to tree disposal, may take them to *Living Earth* (281-342-6113), located at 1700 Hwy 90A East in Richmond. *Living Earth* has not charged for this service in the past, but residents are encouraged to contact them directly at the above number for more information. Trees collected by *Living Earth* are mulched and recycled.

***Citizens may contact
Citizen Relations at
832-595-3301 with
questions.***



FM 2218 Widening Project

Traffic has been moved onto a new temporary asphalt lane as part of the Texas Department of Transportation's FM 2218 widening and improvement project from US 59 to FM 762.

Vehicles will have to stop short when approaching FM 2218 from cross streets on the west side of the roadway as stop bars will be pulled back to correspond with the shifted traffic flow along FM 2218.

Drivers are advised to exercise added caution in this area as the road project continues.

Questions related to the Texas Department of Transportation's FM 2218 widening project should be directed to the local TxDOT office at (281) 238-7900.



Community Build Day A Success

Community members, including participants from ARC of Fort Bend, spent several hours Saturday, December 11th, helping complete the first phase of the new Boundless Playground at the Seabourne Creek Regional Sports Complex. Individuals helped spread mulch under and around the play equipment.

The second and final phase of the project is expected to be completed in early 2011. There will be a ribbon-cutting at the completion of the project in order to debut it for the community.

A certified Boundless Playground is a playground that is built to specific standards above and beyond the minimum standards set by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Boundless Playgrounds allow every child of every ability a place and opportunity to play. The new playground being installed at Seabourne Creek Park will meet the strict standards and guidelines to be a Boundless Playground.



Funding for completion of the first phase was made available through Parkland Dedication Funds and donations from Friends of Community Recreation in Rosenberg, Rosenberg Rotary, and Capital One Bank. Phase two will be completed with a grant from CVS Caremark.

For more information on Seabourne Creek Regional Sports Complex, or other City park amenities, please contact the Parks Department at 832-595-3960.

Update on Texas Appliance Mail-in Rebate Program

Since the last newsletter, the State Comptroller's office has released additional information regarding the appliance mail-in rebate program.

The Comptroller's office is adding more money to the upcoming ENERGY STAR® appliance mail-in rebate program to allow more Texans to take advantage of rebates. An additional \$8.5 million is being added to the initial \$10 million. The money is from unused public sector energy efficiency funds transferred from the State Energy Program to the rebate program. All funds are part of the federal stimulus program.

The purchase period for the \$18.5 million Texas Appliance Mail-In Rebate Program began December 20, 2010. Owners of appliances purchased and installed on or after December 20, should mail in a completed rebate application form and a copy of the receipt to apply for the rebates. The mail-in rebate program will remain open until all available funds are distributed.

The fastest way for consumers to get a form is to download the rebate application available in advance at: www.texaspowerfulsmart.org. A link to the form has also been forwarded to retailers to assist customers at stores. Texans can also pick up a form at Comptroller field offices around the state. A list of field offices is available at www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/fieldoff.html. If necessary, consumers who cannot download a form could also call an automated customer information line at (855) 556-1312 and leave a message to have a form mailed to their home. An application form is not required at the time of purchase, but is needed at the time of installation for disposal information.

Consumers who buy an ENERGY STAR® appliance must replace and dispose of an old appliance of the same type to be eligible for a rebate. An additional \$75 rebate is available for recycling the old appliance. Proof of disposal or recycling is required on the rebate application.

Rebate applications will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis, based on the postmark on the rebate application envelope. Both the appliance purchase receipt and the postmark on the envelope submitting the rebate application form must be dated on or after December 20, 2010.

After the program starts, a daily countdown calculator of rebate funds will be available online to help consumers gauge the amount of funds processed and amount available for rebates. Shoppers could also call the customer information line for those amounts. Answers to frequently asked questions and other helpful consumer information are available at www.TexasPowerfulSmart.org.

Rebates are as follow:

Eligible ENERGY STAR® Appliances	Rebate Amount
Air-Source Heat Pumps	\$1,000
Central Air Conditioners	\$1,000
Clothes Washers*	\$100
Dishwashers	\$85
Freezers**	\$100
Refrigerators**	\$175
Room Air Conditioners	\$40
Water Heaters ***	\$300

* Modified Energy Factor 2.0 or greater and Water Factor 6.0 or less

** 14.5 cubic feet or greater

*** Water heater ENERGY STAR criteria were upgraded on Sept. 1, 2010. Only water heaters that meet the new standard are eligible for rebates.

source: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts Press Release 12/15/10



ROSENBERG DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Building Our Future

State of the City - 2010 Economic Report

Each year, the Rosenberg Development Corporation releases an annual report detailing the economic conditions of the City. This year's report encompasses economic activity and statistics during the 2010 fiscal year (FY10) which ran from October 2009 through September 2010.

New and Expanded Businesses: In FY10, the City of Rosenberg celebrated the openings and expansions of several businesses including a National Oilwell Downhole Tools facility which opened in January 2010. This facility employs more than seventy-five (75) people and is a significant sales tax generator for the City.

In September 2010, Biotics Research Corporation, an existing Rosenberg company, began construction on an expansion project to add an additional twenty-five (25) employees and approximately 30,000 square feet to the company's existing 42,000 square foot production and warehouse facility.

Retail growth continued to be strong in Brazos Town Center in FY10. Some notable openings in Brazos Town Center in FY10 included the 125,000 square foot Kroger Marketplace and Cracker Barrel.

Capital Projects funded by the Rosenberg Development Corporation in FY10 included: the widening of FM 2218 from U.S. Highway 59 to FM 1640; installation of lights and the completion of construction at the Seabourne Creek Park Sports Complex; various neighborhood park improvements including the construction of a walking trail at Travis Park; enhanced maintenance at the City's transportation gateways including mowing, litter pick-up, weeding, the planting of landscaping at two welcome signs and the painting of the Highway 59 bridges at FM 2218 and Highway 36; the initiation of a pilot project focusing on various beautification efforts at Avenue H and 3rd Street, including curb/sidewalk cleaning and repair, hand rail painting and the installation of additional landscaping; and the implementation of the marketing phase of the Rosenberg Transit and Pedestrian plan.

Economic Performance: Rosenberg's population is estimated to be approximately 31,000, though an exact figure will not be known until the 2010 census numbers are released in the Spring of 2011. This estimate represents a 26% increase from 2000. Unemployment in Rosenberg ranged from a high of 8.7% to a low of 7.8% in FY10. Though high for the area, Rosenberg's peak unemployment percentage was still significantly lower than the nation's peak unemployment of 10.6%. Sales tax revenues increased 3% from FY09. This relatively flat growth is primarily due to decreased demand for construction materials due to the recession. Retail demand at Brazos Town Center continued to be strong with sales tax receipts from the development showing a 16% increase over FY09. Property values decreased by approximately 3.6% due to the continued stagnant economy as well as a weaker-than-normal housing market. Since FY04, non-residential property taxes have increased from 49% to 59% of Rosenberg's property tax base, indicating that the City's businesses have taken over an important role in supporting City services.

To view the entire Rosenberg Development Corporation Annual Report, please visit:
www.rosenbergcodev.com.



Lt. Colin Davidson Completes FBI National Academy Program

Lieutenant Colin Davidson is one of 265 law enforcement officers from around the world who participated in the FBI advance-training program's 243rd session held in Quantico, Virginia, this past fall.

Internationally known for its academic excellence, the National Academy Program, held at the FBI Academy, offers eleven weeks of advanced investigative, management, and fitness training for selected officers with proven records as professionals within their agencies. On average, participating officers have 19 years of law enforcement experience and usually return to their agencies to serve in executive-level positions.

Lt. Davidson has served with the Rosenberg Police Department for 22 years and has progressed through the ranks to his current position as Professional Standards Lieutenant. Davidson was hired in 1989 as a Patrol officer and was promoted in 1993 to Patrol Sergeant. He was promoted in 2000 to Investigator in the Criminal Investigation Division and received his Master Peace Officer Certification in 2005. In 2006, Davidson was promoted to his current position, Professional Standards Lieutenant.

Rosenberg's Police Chief proudly presented a Certificate of Recognition to Lieutenant Davidson at the January 4, 2011 City Council Meeting, stating that accomplishing this program has earned Lt. Davidson a place of high esteem in the hearts and minds of the people of this City.

Davidson joins two other Rosenberg Police Department officers who have also completed the FBI National Academy Program - Chief Robert Gracia, and Assistant Chief Dallis Warren.

Police Chief Robert Gracia stated, "Lt. Davidson's experience and advanced training will undoubtedly influence the ongoing efforts and mission of the Rosenberg Police Department to protect the lives, property and rights of all people, and to maintain order and enforce the law impartially through the provision of quality police service in partnership with the community, while striving to attain the highest degree of ethical behavior and professional conduct at all times. Lt. Davidson strives to set an example for his fellow peace officers to follow and is an asset to our department."



Lieutenant Davidson is picture above with Mayor Joe Gurecky and Chief Robert Gracia after receiving his Certificate of Recognition at the January 4, 2011 City Council Meeting.

Congratulations, Colin, on an exemplary accomplishment!

Rosenberg 2010 Uniform Crime Report

As part of its annual report to citizenry, the Rosenberg Police Department reported its 2010 crime statistics, in accordance with the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program, at the January 18 City Council Meeting. The report highlighted a 2% decrease in reportable crimes from 2009, and a 47% decrease from 1996.

The UCR program uses a statistical tool referred to as the "crime index" which consists of seven serious, "Part 1" crimes that present a common enforcement problem to police agencies across the State of Texas. UCR statistics are used to assess the amount and types of these crimes occurring statewide. Crimes reported by the Rosenberg PD are categorized as either violent crimes, including murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault, or as property crimes such as burglary, larceny/theft, and motor vehicle theft.

Part 1 crimes reported for Rosenberg in 2010 included:

- Four (4) **homicides** - an **increase** of 33% over 2009 and 1996.
- 20 reported **rapes** - an **increase** of 122% from nine (9) in 2009, and equal to the number reported in 1996.
- 34 **robberies** - a 100% **increase** from 17 in 2009, and a 51% decrease from 1996.
- 623 reported **assaults** - a 6% **decrease** from 2009, and a 35% decrease from 1996.
- 176 reported **burglaries** - an 11% **decrease** from 198 in 2009, and a 44% decrease from 1996.
- 451 **larceny/theft** incidences - a 2% **increase** from 442 in 2009, but a 56% decrease from 1996.
- 31 **motor vehicle thefts** - a 9% **decrease** from 2009, and a drastic 73% decrease from the 115 cases reported in 1996.

Despite increases in four of the seven reportable categories, **Rosenberg saw an overall decrease in Index Crimes for 2010.** There were a total of 1,339 reported cases for 2010, compared to 1,361 cases for 2009, a 2% decrease. Furthermore, the **2010 reported cases represent a 47% decrease in reportable crimes since 1996**, when 2,512 crimes were reported under the UCR. This decrease has occurred despite the widespread growth of the population and community and the dramatic increase in service calls to the Department.

In 1996, the 2,512 reported Part 1 crimes represented 8.4% of the total service calls (29,838), while in 2010, the 1,339 Part 1 crimes represented only 2.6% of the total service calls (51,683), a decrease from 3.3% in 2009.

According to the Texas Department of Public Safety, the entity charged with collecting, validating and tabulating UCR reports from all reporting jurisdictions in Texas, statistics gathered under the Uniform Crime Reporting Program are used to project a statewide picture of crime. Awareness of factors which influence the resulting crime statistics is necessary in order to draw fair conclusions from the data. As various crime factors influence the crime experience of each community, comparisons of crime statistics between communities should not be made without consideration of the individual factors present.

Crime is a social problem of grave concern in which the police are limited in their role of suppression and detection. As stated by the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice, *"The fact that the police deal daily with crime does not mean that they have unlimited power to prevent it, or reduce it, or deter it. The police did not create and cannot resolve the social conditions that stimulate crime. They do not enact the laws that they are required to enforce, nor do they dispose of the criminal they arrest. The police are only one part of the government; and the government is only one part of society. The criminal process is limited to case by case operations, one criminal or one crime at a time."*

Some conditions which affect crime types and volume that occur in differing jurisdictions include: the crime reporting practices of the citizenry; public attitudes toward law enforcement and crime; the size, density and demographic composition of a jurisdiction's population; the economic status of the population and area unemployment rates; population stability including the number of commuters, transients, and seasonal population variations; climate; cultural conditions, such as educational, recreational, and religious characteristics; community family values; law enforcement employment standards and relative strength; policies of the prosecuting officials and the courts; and the administrative and investigative efficiency of the local law enforcement agency, including the degree of adherence to crime reporting standards.

The decrease in overall Part 1 reportable crimes demonstrates the Rosenberg Police Department's continued commitment to the community and proactive policing techniques, and can be attributed to several factors including professional development, the utilization of technology, and increased visibility along with renewed and strengthened relationships with citizens and area businesses. Police Department personnel training provides skills specific to proactive police work, and officers have made major strides by incorporating technology into their daily operations.

Questions about the Rosenberg Police Department's 2010 Uniform Crime Report should be directed to 832-595-3700.

Sources: <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/ucr/> and the Rosenberg Police Department.

Image Committee

January & February
**BEAUTIFICATION
AWARDS**

Landscape:

Elge, Inc.
1000 Cole Avenue

Sonic Drive-In
1704 Avenue H

St. Paul Lutheran Church
1208 5th Street

Jorge & Hermila Barrera
1412 Wilson Drive

Renovation:

Today's Respiratory
3517 Avenue I

Michael & Juanita Velasquez
604 Elm Street

Want to
Serve on
City
Council?



Rosenberg will hold a
General Municipal Election
Saturday, May 14, 2011,
for City Council and
Mayor positions.

Information regarding
applications for a place
on the ballot is as follows:

Applications for a place
on the City of Rosenberg
Regular Election ballot
may be filed during the
following times:

**February 12, 2011 (8 a.m.)
through
March 14, 2011 (5 p.m.).**

at the City Secretary's
Office, 2110 4th Street,
Rosenberg, Texas
77471. If filing by mail,
applications should
be mailed to the same
address.

Interested individuals
may contact the City
Secretary's Office at 832-
595-3340 for further
information.

*Be sure to watch this space in
the coming months for details
on the election. Mark your
calendar for Saturday, May 14
to make your voice heard!*



Image Committee Corner

Tips and resources for enhancing your own little corner of the world...

**Recycle Your Paper @
3720 Airport Avenue**

Recycling a one-foot high stack of newspapers saves enough electricity to heat a home for 17 hours. The City of Rosenberg provides a paper recycling container at the 24/7 Recycling Dropoff Center on Airport Avenue. Please drop off your newspapers, magazines, office and school papers, catalogs, phone books and mail, but leave the cardboard at home. While you're there, be sure to check out the other recycling options that are available!

Save the date...
9th Annual
FISH-tastic
Free Children's
Fishing Tournament
Seabourne Creek Nature Park
...March 5, 2011

ARE YOU REGISTERED TO



To vote in Texas, you must be registered. To do so, simply pick up an application, fill it out, and mail it at least 30 days before the election date.

You're eligible to vote if you:
are a United States citizen;
are legally registered to vote in Texas; are at least 18 years old on Election day; are not a convicted felon; and you have not been declared by a court to be either totally mentally incapacitated or partially mentally incapacitated, without the right to vote.

Voter registration applications are available at Rosenberg City Hall (2110 4th Street) and the County Elections Office (4520 Reading Road, Suite A).

For more information, or to download an application, visit: www.votexas.org



Rosenberg Hosts Regional Water Conference

Nearly 100 attendees filled the Rosenberg Civic Center on Thursday, January 6, for "H₂O Fort Bend," a regional water conference planned and hosted by the City in an effort to help lead and shape the discourse in Fort Bend County related to water and subsidence concerns.



Attendees heard from speakers representing the Fort Bend Subsidence District, North Fort Bend Water Authority, the City of Missouri City, the City of Rosenberg and the Richmond-Rosenberg Local Government Corporation during the morning sessions. State Senator Glenn Hegar capped off the conference as the keynote speaker at lunch, discussing the 2011 Texas Legislative Session and his predictions about what role water issues might play in the legislative agenda for State lawmakers. Senator Hegar also took a moment to wish Rosenberg Mayor Joe Gurecky a "Happy Birthday" during his speech (*see photos below*).

The City plans to host annual conferences to bring attention to and discuss issues related to water in Fort Bend County, and more specifically, to help engender cooperation between local and regional entities, many of which are currently attempting to find solutions to conversion mandates.



2011 Great Texas Warrant Round Up

As part of the 2011 Great Texas Warrant Round-Up from Saturday, March 5 through Sunday, March 13, the Rosenberg Municipal Court and Rosenberg Police Department will be combining forces with over 300 law enforcement agencies across the State to search for and arrest anyone with outstanding warrants. Once the Round-Up begins March 5, the Rosenberg Police Department will aggressively target persons on the warrant list. Arrests can occur at any location, including the defendant's home, school, or workplace.

Notices have been mailed to all defendants with warrants pending against them. To avoid arrest, persons with outstanding warrants in one of more of the participating agencies are encouraged to pay all outstanding fines immediately.

Outstanding warrants with the Rosenberg Municipal Court may be paid by credit card either online at <https://rosenbergtx.municipalonlinepayments.com/site/Court>, or over the phone by calling 832-595-3450. Defendants may also pay by appearing in person at the Rosenberg Municipal Court located at City Hall, 2110 4th Street. Court hours are Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Alternatively, fines may also be paid by mail with a money order or cashier's check. Payments should be mailed to Rosenberg Municipal Court, P.O. Box 32, Rosenberg, TX 77471-0032. Warrant(s) will remain in force until payment is received and posted by Rosenberg Municipal Court personnel.

Rosenberg Municipal Court has reported all persons with outstanding warrants to the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) for non-renewal of drivers' licenses. Only full payment of outstanding fines will clear the DPS non-renewal status.

Any inquiries regarding the 2011 Great Texas Warrant Round-Up in Rosenberg should be directed to 832-595-3450.

ROSENBERG DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Building Our Future

City and RDC Sign Deal to Expand Seatex, Ltd. in Rosenberg

On December 7, 2010, the City of Rosenberg and the Rosenberg Development Corporation (RDC) voted to approve a three-party performance agreement between the two entities and Seatex, Ltd., a chemical blending company located on State Highway 36 just north of US 90 in the former Albis Plastics facility. The City also approved a tax abatement for new capital improvements to the property, estimated to add a value of approximately \$2 million to the tax rolls when complete.

In addition to the City tax abatement, the RDC will be investing \$300,000 in infrastructure to upgrade the drainage in the area in order for Seatex and surrounding properties to be able to further develop property without the need for on-site detention. By constructing culverts under Highway 36, Seatex and other adjacent industrial properties will be able to direct their drainage to the system instead of retaining/releasing it through on-site detention as is normally required, thus opening up more property for development.

In return, Seatex will continue to operate the Company's manufacturing business on the property for a minimum of ten (10) additional years. This agreement ensures that Seatex will continue to employ at least fifty-one (51) employees at an average salary of \$40,000 per year, with an additional twenty (20) employees to be hired by January 1, 2013. Per the terms of the agreement, these jobs are guaranteed by Seatex through December 31, 2021.



Through the performance and tax abatement agreements, the City and RDC are able to retain a successful, growing business in our community, and to add taxable value to the property rolls, in addition to retaining existing jobs and capital investment and, after 2017, gaining \$10,000 in annual tax revenue on what could have otherwise been vacant property.



Rosenberg Fire Department Extends Helping Hands (and Feet)

With the support of the entire Department and the Rosenberg Firefighters Association, six (6) Rosenberg firefighters took part in the Houston Marathon on Sunday, January 31, 2011. Justin Rodgers, Thomas Brown, Lt. Danny Johnson, Robert Salmons, Jason Johns and Patrick Neal, pictured on the right before the race, all ran the half marathon to help bring awareness to a Rosenberg cause - Cover Our Kids. Cover Our Kids is a program developed to help those less privileged in our community by providing coats to children.



Members of the Department have been working with Rosenberg's Tower of Refuge Church to assist those in need in our community through projects like Cover Our Kids. The firefighters, along with a representative from Tower of Refuge Church, were featured as part of the Marathon's Media Day to highlight and publicize the Marathon and different groups participating in it. The group's participation in the Marathon exemplifies the entire Department's efforts to take community causes, such as "Cover our Kids," to heart.



As part of their service to the Rosenberg community, members of the Fire Department also organized and continue to run "Cans 4 Cancer" to raise funds and awareness for cancer research through recycling aluminum cans, and assist with daily deliveries to Meals on Wheels clients in the Rosenberg area.

Rosenberg Fire Chief Kathleen Hutchens stated, "The members of the Rosenberg Firefighters Association decided that they could make a difference in the community and took action by running in the recent Houston Marathon. They chose to run in the Marathon to bring attention to a program that assists children - the "Cover our Kids" program that provides winter coats for needy children. None of these guys had ever participated in a marathon but they trained for it and successfully completed the event. Additionally, they had support from other firefighters who remained on duty so the runners could participate in the race. I am so proud of their commitment to this cause and to doing something that really helped others."

Above left: Lt. Danny Johnson prepares to cross the finish line.

Right: All six firefighters after completing the half marathon.



Photos courtesy Nanette Johnson

The City of Rosenberg's Mission is...

To provide the community an enhanced quality of life through public service that ensures the continuance of our small town values while maintaining ethical standards.



Rosenberg PD Honors Exemplary Performance

In its first Departmental Decoration Ceremony since 2002, the Rosenberg Police Department took time January 27, to honor exemplary job performance and recognize extraordinary accomplishments of officers over the last year. The evening highlighted the quality, experience, longevity and education level of the Department's current corps of sixty-six (66) uniformed personnel, and was held to recognize those employees who have distinguished themselves by achieving or serving above and beyond the normal call of duty.

The evening began with a ceremony in which all departmental personnel were awarded their decorations, worn on the officers' uniforms to represent their cumulative merits earned with the Rosenberg Police Department. After presenting the decorations to each officer in attendance, Lt. Aaron Slater presented the awards earned by RPD Officers in 2010.



Tim Kraus. Officer James Thompson is not pictured. These Officers were recognized for everything from apprehending suspects and thwarting burglaries in progress, to apprehending narcotics traffickers.

Life Saving Awards, presented to those officers whose actions directly resulted in the saving of a human life, were presented to (L to R) Officers John Delgado, Jerry Price, and Jonathan White, pictured at right with Lt. Wayne Jory, Assistant Chief Dallis Warren, Lt. Aaron Slater, Chief Robert Gracia, and Lt. Colin Davidson.



Exceptional Service Medals, were presented to Officer David Mirelez for apprehension of narcotics traffickers, and Officer Jason Escobar for apprehension of burglary suspects. They are pictured at left with Assistant Chief Warren and Lt. Slater.

Chief's Commendation Awards, selected by the Police Chief to recognize

outstanding contributions to law enforcement through the success of difficult police projects, programs or situations achieved through highly professional accomplishments, were presented to Officer John Delgado, Sergeant Richard Hooper, Investigator David Mirelez, and Officers Jerry Price, Jason Escobar, and Jonathan White. They are pictured with Chief Gracia.



Sergeant Richard Hooper was honored with the Department's Officer of the Year award, bestowed upon the officer considered to have made the largest contribution to the Department and the community for the year. Sgt. Hooper was recognized for his proficiency and hard work in improving the Department's efficiency and efficacy in crime-fighting through the implementation of significant improvements in technology and data management

Department-wide. He is pictured above left with Police Administration.

At the conclusion of the formal awards ceremony, representatives from the Rosenberg Police Officers Association presented an award on behalf of the Organization for "Administrator of the Year" to Lieutenant Aaron Slater for his leadership of and support for the Department, its mission and its Officers.

Officers with the Rosenberg Police Department are highly trained professionals who take their jobs and responsibilities very seriously. Next time you see an officer, be sure to tip your hat to them - they work hard each day to keep our community safe!

February Employees of the Month

The City named six (6) employees February Employees of the Month. They are pictured below with City Manager Jack Hamlett.

Five recipients work in the Finance Department: Director **Joyce Vasut**, who joined the City staff in October 2010; Budget Analyst **Maritza Salazar**, with the City since 1998; Accounting Clerk III **Lori Dresner**, with the City since 2003; Payroll Clerk **Luis Garza**, with the City since 2006; and Accounts Payable Clerk **Frances Frelich**, with the City since 2005.

Diane Zepeda, Personnel Administrative Assistant, was named a joint recipient and has been a City employee since 1999.

These employees were nominated for their outstanding work to transition the City's computer payroll software. The group worked diligently together through a series of adjustments, modifications and clarifications in the new system, and put in many long hours to get everything adjusted and working properly. All six were nominated by their peers for this special recognition of their efforts.

Congratulations and thanks for your hard work!



Image Committee

March BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS

Landscape:

Lydia Eicher
1201 Brazos Street

Larry and Barbara Kunz
1208 Mulcahy

Joyce Lolley
2710 Avenue G

Ginger Lamkin
2526 Avenue G

Image Committee Corner

*Tips and resources for
enhancing your own little
corner of the world...*

Plastics & other recyclables accepted 24/7 at 3720 Airport Avenue

The City of Rosenberg's recycling drop-off center is open 24/7 and residents are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity to recycle. In addition to paper products, a number of other items are also accepted, including plastic containers that have a recycle number stamped on them, aluminum, steel, and tin cans. All items must have been thoroughly rinsed.

The center is not able to accept glass, trash, chemicals, automotive fluids, dead animals or batteries.

Join your neighbors in helping keep our landfills free of items that could be recycled or reused.

Questions related to the Recycling Drop-Off Center should be directed to 832-595-3960 weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., or 832-595-1700 after hours.



Pickens Attains Code Enforcement Officer II Certification

Rose Pickens, Code Enforcement Officer with the City of Rosenberg since February 2009, recently received an additional accreditation. Pickens completed a newly-developed 28-hour course in October 2010, hosted by Texas Engineering Extension Services (TEEX), and recognized by the Code Enforcement Association of Texas (CEAT). The course was created to provide a systematic approach in the development of Code Enforcement Officers and a step toward the recognition of the field of Code Enforcement at accredited university levels.



Pickens sees her role as a Code Enforcement Officer as an opportunity and challenge to beautify the City through the daily aspects of her job, including promoting clean-up and assisting with nuisance abatement, and works diligently to do her part to fulfill the City's mission of providing the community an enhanced quality of life.

During the course, Pickens said she was especially impressed to learn more about the legal aspects of Code Enforcement and how to legally and effectively administer compliance programs - elements that she feels will be helpful to her in doing her best for our City and its residents.

As a course graduate, Pickens holds a Code Enforcement II certification that fewer than 100 Code Enforcement Officers across the State of Texas hold.

Congratulations, Rose, on a job well done!

Rosenberg Water Supply

The Fort Bend Subsidence District (District) was established by the Texas Legislature in 1989 "to provide for the regulation of the withdrawal of groundwater within the District to prevent subsidence" in Fort Bend County. Currently, cities in Fort Bend County primarily utilize groundwater wells as their water supplies. In order to prevent ground subsidence and protect groundwater sources, the District has mandated that cities reduce pumpage from groundwater wells through partial conversion to alternate water supplies.

Under these mandates, the Cities of Rosenberg and Richmond are required to reduce groundwater pumpage 30% by 2015. To help achieve this, both cities have purchased water supply contracts with the Brazos River Authority (BRA). Rosenberg's annual cost for the water supply contract with the BRA is \$285,000.

Rosenberg and Richmond are partnering to build a joint water treatment plant and distribution facilities for the Brazos River water. The preliminary cost estimate for these facilities is \$50 million.

In order to meet the increasing costs of the surface water project and annual water supply contract, the City must increase its water revenues. To this end, Council established a subsidence fee in 2008 that is added to customers' monthly water bills. Revenues generated by the subsidence fee are held in a separate fund to be used only toward costs related to compliance with Fort Bend Subsidence District mandates.



The Rosenberg subsidence fee will increase annually until 2015, as the City elected to phase in rate increases over a multiple-year period. A rate of 60¢ per 1,000 gallons of water consumption went into effect on March 01, 2011. By 2015, the subsidence fee is projected to be at least \$1.20. Other cities in Fort Bend County are facing similar mandates and rate increases.

For further information on the Fort Bend Subsidence District, please visit **www.fbsubsidence.org**.

For questions related to the above article, please contact the City Manager's Office at 832-595-3310.

ROSENBERG DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Building Our Future

Tourism Important to Diverse Local Economy

Development Corporations in the State of Texas are authorized to engage in projects that improve a community's quality of life, including tourism. These projects can take various forms, from the development of new attractions to marketing existing ones.

Tourism is important to communities because it injects outside dollars into the local economy. Tourists are desirable because the money they spend comes without many service requirements – that is, tourists spend money in a city but ask little of the city in return, when compared to a resident. Take for example, a family visiting Rosenberg for a weekend baseball tournament at Seabourne Creek Regional Sports Complex. They will need to stay at a hotel, and will probably also eat in area restaurants and visit local businesses, such as antique stores downtown. All of these activities provide the City additional tax revenue which can then be used to improve existing infrastructure to the benefit of residents and future visitors.



Besides directly boosting tax revenues, tourism provides numerous other benefits to a community, including employment opportunities related to the attractions themselves as well as businesses that support and cater to visitors. Thus, tourism helps diversify an economy and serves as a stimulus to new growth and development.



Rosenberg is fortunate to be in an area full of history and interesting, unique attractions, including the Rosenberg Railroad Museum, CAST Theatrical, and the shops and businesses in our Historic Downtown District, not to mention area attractions such as Brazos Bend State Park, the George Ranch and Observatory, and the Fort Bend Museum, to name a few. Many groups in the area also host events that draw visitors each year, including the Fort Bend County Fair, Family 4th, Christmas in Rosenberg, the Spring Fling and Ride to Rosenberg car shows, and numerous others.



An Animal Control Officer's Day is never dull...

The month of April is Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month. Rosenberg Animal Control Officers Jackie Jurasek and Renée McAnally spend their days protecting Rosenberg and its animal population from harm.



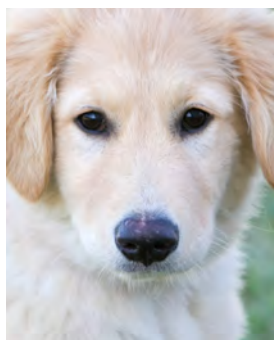
Like Forrest Gump's momma said, "Life is like a box of chocolates - you never know what you are going to get," which is also true of an animal control officer's job. Officers might be chasing a pit bull terrorizing the neighborhood one minute and rounding up a flock of baby ducks out of a swimming pool the next. Their job requires them to deal with all animals, friendly or not, wild or tame, including livestock and domestic and exotic pets.

The primary objective of Rosenberg Animal Control is public health and safety. Wild or domestic animals suspected of rabies are taken to the rabies lab in Houston for testing. Domestic animals that have bitten a human are quarantined at the shelter where they are monitored for ten (10) days from the day of the bite. The officers work closely with the Department of State Health Services regarding any zoonotic issues from West Nile Virus to Mad Cow Disease.

Animal Control Officers also act as mediators for neighbors having animal issues such as excessively barking dogs and animals not being cared for correctly. Most animal owners do not realize that some conditions they choose to ignore are considered inhumane treatment. Animal Control Officers help guide owners to come into compliance with City and State laws and educate them about basic animal care.

Animal cruelty investigations are the most distressful part of an Animal Control Officer's duties. Seeing an animal suffering because of the owner's ignorance or willful neglect can be hard to stomach. Animals without shelter and emaciated animals are a common complaint received by officers. Owners suspected of inhumane treatment of animals are given 24 hours to correct the problem. After that time expires, if the corrections have not been made, officers obtain a seizure warrant and will remove all animals from the premises. The case will then be forwarded to Rosenberg Municipal Court for a hearing and the animal's fate will be decided by the judge.

The best part of an Animal Control Officer's job is seeing many of the stray animals in the shelter (such as the ones pictured in this article) adopted. Animals from the Rosenberg shelter have found homes with people from as far away as California and Montreal, Canada.



It is easy to say that an Animal Control Officer's job is never boring. A phone call can send an officer after a cat in a trap or a tiger cub in an apartment... they truly never know what they are going to get!

For further information on **Rosenberg Animal Control**, please contact **832-595-3490**. If no one answers, be sure to leave a voicemail, and your call will be returned as soon as the officers are able to do so.

If you would like to learn more about the prevention of animal abuse, please visit: www.aspca.org or www.humanesociety.org.

Photos courtesy Meyer and Maples Photography.

City offices will be closed April 22nd for Good Friday.

Garbage will be collected as regularly scheduled.



The City of Rosenberg will hold a **General Municipal Election** for the purpose of electing a mayor and six council members. The election will be held on **Saturday, May 14, 2011**. Qualified voters will select one candidate in each of the following City of Rosenberg races:

Mayor
Council District At Large Position 1
Council District At Large Position 2
Council District in which the voter resides (either District 1, 2, 3, or 4).



Voting will take place according to the schedule on the right.

Voter Identification Requirements

Voters will have to present identification in the following situations: if they do not have a current voter registration certificate; if the voter did not include a copy of identification when applying for voter registration by mail for the first time and this is the voter's first time to vote in a federal election; or if the voter votes a provisional ballot. Appropriate forms of identification include: a driver's license or personal ID card issued to the person by the Texas Department of Public Safety or a similar document issued to the person by an agency of another state, regardless of whether the license or card has expired; a form of ID containing the person's photograph that establishes the person's identity; a birth certificate; US citizenship papers; US passport; official mail addressed to the person by name from a governmental entity; or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other governmental document that shows the name and address of the voter; or any other form of identification prescribed by the Secretary of State.

For more information, please contact:

City of Rosenberg City Secretary, 2110 4th Street.....(832) 595-3340
Fort Bend County Elections Administration, 4520 Reading Road.....(281) 341-8670

The City of Rosenberg has contracted with the Fort Bend County Elections Administrator for election services associated with the above election. The Fort Bend County Elections Administrator conducts Federal, State, and County elections, as well as elections for other government entities that may contract with them for such services.

La Ciudad de Rosenberg llevará a cabo una **Elección Municipal General el sábado, 14 de mayo del 2011**, con el propósito de elegir a un alcalde y seis miembros del Consejo. Cada votante calificado puede votar por un candidato para cada uno de los siguientes puestos:

El Alcalde
Un Miembro del Distrito de Consejo, sin Limitaciones – Puesto 1
Un Miembro del Distrito de Consejo, sin Limitaciones – Puesto 2
Un Miembro del Consejo del Distrito en el cual
dicho votante reside (Distrito 1, 2, 3 o 4)



La votación se llevará a cabo según el horario que se encuentra a la derecha.

IDENTIFICACIÓN REQUERIDA DEL VOTANTE

Los votantes deberán presentar la identificación en las siguientes situaciones: si los votantes no tienen el certificado de registro de votante actual; si el votante no incluye una copia de identificación cuando la aplicación para registro de votantes por correo para la primera vez y esto es el votante del primer tiempo para votar en una elección federal; o si el elector vota una boleta provisional. Formas apropiadas de identificación incluyen: un conductor licencia o tarjeta de identificación personal emitidos a la persona por el departamento de seguridad pública de Texas o un documento similar emitido a la persona por una Agencia de otro Estado, independientemente de si ha caducado la licencia o la tarjeta; una forma de identificación con fotografía de la persona que establece la identidad de la persona; un certificado de nacimiento o de otro documento confirmando el nacimiento que es admisible en un Tribunal de justicia y establece la identidad de la persona; documentos de ciudadanía de Estados Unidos expedidos a nombre de la persona; correo oficial enviado a la persona por su nombre de una entidad gubernamental; una copia de una factura de utilidad actual, extracto bancario, cheque del Gobierno, cheque de pago o otro documento gubernamental que muestra el nombre y la dirección del votante; o cualquier otra forma de identificación prescrita por el Secretario de estado.

PARA MÁS INFORMACIÓN, CONTACTARSE CON:

Ciudad de Rosenberg, Secretaria de la Ciudad, 2110 4th Street.....(832) 595-3340
Condado de Fort Bend, Administración de Elecciones, 4520 Reading Road.....(281) 341-8670

La Ciudad de Rosenberg ha contratado con el Administrador de Elecciones del Condado de Fort Bend para sus servicios en esta elección. El Administrador de Elecciones del Condado de Fort Bend administra elecciones federales, estatales y del condado, además de otras elecciones de entidades de gobierno que se contratan con ellos para sus servicios de elecciones.

EARLY VOTING

May 2 - May 10
Lamar Consolidated ISD
Administration Building
3911 Avenue I

Monday-Friday
May 2 - May 6
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Monday - Tuesday
May 9 - May 10
7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

ELECTION DAY Saturday, May 14

City of Rosenberg
City Hall Council Chamber
2110 4th Street

7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

VOTACIÓN TEMPRANA

Del 02 al 10 de mayo
Edificio de Administración
del LCISD
3911 Avenida I

Del lunes al viernes
02 al 06 de mayo
de 8:00 a.m. a 5:00 p.m.

Lunes y martes
09 y 10 de mayo
de 7:00 a.m. a 7:00 p.m.

DÍA DE LA ELECCIÓN GENERAL sábado, 14 de mayo

Rosenberg City Hall
Salón del Consejo
2110 4th Street

de 7:00 a.m. a 7:00 p.m.



**Rosenberg's Annual
Easter Egg Hunt
April 16, 2011
Seabourne Creek Nature Park**



The City will host its annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 16, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the R.W. Lindsey Gazebo at Seabourne Creek Nature Park. The event is coordinated by the City's Parks and Recreation Department and is free and open to the public.

The "Bring Your Own Basket" Easter egg hunt for kids ages 4 to 12 will be held near the Gazebo at the entrance to Seabourne Creek Park, 3831 SH 36 South, and will kick off with the arrival of the Easter Bunny.

Participants will be divided into three groups for the egg hunt.

Parents are encouraged to bring their camera to get pictures of their children with the Easter Bunny!

For more information, call 832-595-3520 or email lydiaa@ci.rosenberg.tx.us.

Image Committee

**April
BEAUTIFICATION
AWARDS**

Landscape:

Patricia Izzo
2523 Monroe Avenue

Martha Ray
816 8th Street

Hector & Ericka Trevino
1514 Millie Street

Renovation:

Diana Greagrey
1115 Mulcahy Street



Image Committee Urges Citizens to "Think Green"

April 22nd of each year is Earth Day. This year, the City of Rosenberg Image Committee wants to encourage citizens to consider small actions/changes in their daily lives that can have a huge collective impact on our environment.

Earth Day is a worldwide observance celebrated annually, that aims to inspire awareness of and appreciation for Earth's environment. It is observed in more than 140 countries around the world. Founded by Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson in 1970, Earth Day was first organized to promote ecology and respect for life on the planet as well as to encourage awareness of the growing problems of air, water, and soil pollution.

Earth Day 2011 is organized around the theme: Billion Acts of Green – a campaign that calls for people of all nationalities to commit to an act that helps reduce carbon emissions and promotes sustainability. The act can be a simple gesture, such as washing laundry in cold water. Collectively, these acts will not only have an impact on global carbon emissions, but will also demonstrate the power of small every day individual acts of green. Individuals and groups who participate in the Billion Acts of Green campaign are taking part in the world's largest-ever environmental service movement and are encouraged to register their acts (no matter how large or small) at www.billionactsofgreen.org.

What should we do on Earth Day? Everyone can make a difference: walk more, drive less, buy less, grow some of your own food, recycle, clean up your neighborhood or your street, plant a tree or shrub, join a group, participate, volunteer, get involved. We can educate and inform young people and our communities about earth processes, earth science, and the sustainable use of Earth's resources. Canadian educator and philosopher Marshall McLuhan said in 1964, "There are no passengers on Spaceship Earth. We are all crew."



Take a moment on April 22nd to reflect on the impact that can be made when people, corporations, and organizations commit to bettering our environment.

Source: www.earthday.org/earth-day-2011

Rosenberg Wastewater Infrastructure

In addition to a mandated reduction in groundwater pumpage (see last month's INSIDER article, "Rosenberg Water Supply"), the City of Rosenberg must work to improve its wastewater collection and treatment system. Rosenberg is an older city with aging water and wastewater infrastructure which has exceeded its projected life. The City must continue replacing or upgrading its older infrastructure on a regular basis. Otherwise, there are risks of significant failures which would disrupt services and be costly to repair.



In 2006, the City was mandated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to upgrade Wastewater Treatment Plant No. 2 located at 3650 N. Fairgrounds Road. Improvements on this plant totaling \$12,000,000 were completed in 2009.

Additionally, the City needs to replace older wastewater lines throughout the system due to infiltration from rainwater and adjacent soil which increases treatment costs and can result in pipe failure. Rosenberg has established a program to replace sections of the old pipes each year.

To provide funding for the above improvements, the City must issue financing obligations, which in turn, increase the City's annual debt service. Consequently, revenues must be increased to cover the additional debt service payments. The City elected to phase-in the revenue increases over a four-year period. For 2011, the monthly wastewater fee increased \$1.00, effective March 01, 2011.

For further information about the above article, please contact the City Manager's Office at 832-595-3310.

ROSENBERG DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Building Our Future

RDC Strategic Planning

On March 3, 2011, the Rosenberg Development Corporation (RDC) began the process of updating its Strategic Plan. The RDC's Strategic Plan allows the organization's board members to establish a blueprint and priorities for staff to follow with respect to the improvement of the economic and community well-being in Rosenberg. The initial Strategic Plan was adopted in March of 2008. The strategic planning update project was initiated following the completion of many of the major components in the initial plan. (Please see photos below for a sample of completed projects.)

The RDC decided to organize its priorities into several areas of focus for strategic planning purposes: image, commercial revitalization and redevelopment, business development, business retention, and quality of life. Board members began the update process by analyzing Rosenberg's strengths and weaknesses in each of these areas and establishing mission statements and action plans based on methods to improve the weak areas. Due to time constraints, the RDC was only able to consider the first focus areas at the March 3rd meeting.

The RDC Board addressed image, discussing strategies for shaping people's perspective of Rosenberg. These strategies included not only the physical appearance of the community, but ways to promote the City and make Rosenberg an even more desirable location for new and expanded businesses.

Another area the RDC board discussed was commercial revitalization and redevelopment. Strategies aimed at encouraging businesses to expand and grow in existing commercial areas of the City were considered.

The next RDC strategic planning session is scheduled for Wednesday, April 6, 2011. For more information about the RDC Strategic Plan, please contact the Economic Development Department at 832-595-3330.



Transportation Gateway Improvements



National Oilwell Varco Relocation



Neighborhood Park Improvements



May is Building Safety Month

When you enter a house or building, most likely you assume that it was properly constructed and safe. Fortunately, your local safety experts work hard every day to assure building safety and fire prevention. To help raise awareness of building safety, the City of Rosenberg proudly celebrates Building Safety Month this May. The theme, “An International Celebration of Safe and Sensible Structures”, highlights four areas: Energy and Green Building; Disaster Safety and Mitigation; Fire Safety and Awareness; and Backyard Safety. Across the nation, leaders and communities are promoting the use and understanding of these topics to protect lives and property.

“The important work we do is often overlooked until a catastrophic tragedy occurs,” said Tonya Palmer, Rosenberg Building Official. “When building safety and fire prevention experts inspect buildings during and after construction, we help to ensure that the places where you live, learn, work, worship, and play are safe.”

Building safety and fire prevention codes address all aspects of construction, such as structural soundness of buildings, reliability of fire prevention and suppression systems, plumbing and mechanical systems, and energy efficiency and sustainability. Ensuring buildings are safe requires the active participation of building safety and fire prevention officials, architects, builders, engineers and others in the construction industry, as well as property owners.

“Public safety is our number one concern,” said Palmer. “During Building Safety Month and all year long, building safety and fire prevention officials are here to help protect you, your family and our community.”

The City of Rosenberg encourages all citizens to find out more about building safety by visiting the ICC’s Building Safety Month website at buildingsafetymonth.org.

The International Code Council (ICC) is a membership association dedicated to building safety, fire prevention, and energy efficiency. The ICC develops the codes used to construct residential and commercial buildings, including homes and schools. Most U.S. cities, counties, and states choose the International Codes, building safety codes developed by the International Code Council. The International Codes also serve as the basis for construction of federal properties around the world, and as a reference for many nations outside the United States.

Building Safety Month is sponsored by the International Code Council Foundation (ICCF), the non-profit subsidiary of the International Code Council (ICC).

If you have questions about the City of Rosenberg’s Building Codes, you are encouraged to visit the City website at ci.rosenberg.tx.us.

Source: buildingsafetymonth.org

An International Celebration
of Safe and Sensible Structures



BUILDING SAFETY MONTH

INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL FOUNDATION

MAY 2011

City offices will be closed Monday, May 30, 2011, for Memorial Day.

Garbage WILL NOT be collected on Monday, but will instead be collected the next regularly-scheduled pick-up day - Thursday.



Martinez Earns Municipal Court Clerk Certification

Janie Martinez has been employed as a Court Clerk with the City of Rosenberg's Municipal Court since September 2009. On April 06, 2011, Ms. Martinez received her official certification as Certified Court Clerk Level I, by the Boards of Directors of Texas Court Clerks Association, Texas Municipal Courts Association, and the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center in cooperation with Texas State University – San Marcos.



Clerk I certification is achieved after completion of at least 40 hours of educational training and passing a written certification test. Clerks receiving this certification must complete education courses annually to maintain their certification. Clerk I certification includes studies in such areas as ethics, procedures before trial, trial processes, post trial procedures, state and city reports, traffic law, juveniles and minors, communications, and stress management, as well as an

overview of the courts, authorities, and duties.

Congratulations, Janie, on a job well done!

City Adopts Revised Smoking Ordinance

The Rosenberg City Council approved Ordinance 2011-08, an ordinance amending the City's smoking regulations, on April 05, 2011, with the objective of prohibiting smoking in public places and work places. Public places shall include, but are not limited to childcare facilities, restaurants, retail stores, schools, offices, enclosed theaters, motels, City parks, and governmental facilities.



The intent of the Council in amending the ordinance is to provide for the public health, safety, and welfare by discouraging the inherently dangerous behavior of tobacco use near non-tobacco users, by protecting the non-tobacco users from exposure to smoking and tobacco; by protecting the public from smoking and tobacco related litter and pollution; and by affirming and promoting the healthy atmosphere of public places and work places.

The owner, operator, or manager of a public place or work place is responsible for complying with the new ordinance provisions including:

1. Posting "No Smoking" signs within the public place and work place, plus at every entrance.
2. Removing all ashtrays from any area where smoking is prohibited.
3. Requesting that any person smoking in a public place or work place under their control, extinguish the burning product.

Because the new ordinance will impact so many commercial businesses and public places, the City is allowing a transition period before enforcement of the revised ordinance begins on July 05, 2011. If violations are observed prior to July 05, City officers have been instructed to provide informational warnings to assist with compliance.

A copy of the smoking ordinance (Ordinance 2011-08) is available on the City's website (www.ci.rosenberg.tx.us) via the "Ordinances" link under Our Government on the Homepage. Questions regarding the ordinance may be directed to Citizen Relations at 832-595-3301.

May Employees of the Month Fire Department Marathon runners



Rosenberg Fire Chief Kathleen Hutchens (far left) and City Manager Jack Hamlett (far right) join Rosenberg Firefighters (left to right) Robert Salmons, Danny Johnson, Jason Johns, Thomas Brown, Patrick Neal, and Justin Rodgers.

The firefighters were honored as Employees of the Month for their participation in the Houston Marathon in January to raise awareness for a Rosenberg cause that benefits many of the less-fortunate in our community - Cover Our Kids. Congratulations, gentlemen, on a job well done!

Image Committee

May BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS

Landscape:

Steve & Ella Brown
1509 Frost Street

Robert & Frances Foss
1419 Azalea Drive

Yvette's Beauty Designs
1724 4th Street

**Gonzalo Martinez
& Mary Sotelo**
3026 Longhorn Drive

Gertrude Kuykendall
1200 Tobola Street

Renovation:

Kelly Kaluza
1112 Damon Street



2011 Easter Egg Hunt a Blast for All!

Over 200 children and their families showed up again this year at Rosenberg's R.W. Lindsey Gazebo in Seabourne Creek Park to celebrate Easter with a free community egg hunt.



Children were divided into three age groups for the hunt, and spent time afterward visiting with the Easter Bunny.



Darren McCarthy, Parks and Recreation Director, is pictured below with the Easter Bunny himself!



A big thanks goes out to the volunteers from Lamar and Terry High School who helped make the event a success!



Image Committee Offers Waste Removal Tips for Spring Cleaning



Are you finishing up your spring cleaning? The City and the Rosenberg Image Committee offer the following information for the proper disposal of unwanted items. At this time of year, many folks are cleaning out and cleaning up, and questions often arise about disposal of certain items. The following information is provided to help assist residents in finding a suitable place to dispose of unwanted items locally. The list is not comprehensive in nature, but is provided as a starting point.

• **Household Solid Waste Collection Service** (Republic Services)

The City's regular garbage service will pick up heavy items once weekly on your second regularly-scheduled collection day (Thursday or Friday). Each household is limited to one bulky item per pick-up, including stoves, refrigerators (with Freon removed and properly tagged by an authorized technician), water heaters, washing machines, mattresses, furniture and other waste materials with weights or volumes greater than those allowed for regular garbage containers. Carpeting will be picked up if cut to 4-foot width and rolled.

TIRES, TELEVISIONS, ITEMS CONTAINING REFRIGERANTS, HAZARDOUS MATERIALS, CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS, WET PAINT, MOTOR OIL, GAS TANKS, OR OTHER ITEMS WHICH MAY BECOME FLAMMABLE WHEN MIXED WITH OTHER GARBAGE CANNOT BE ACCEPTED.

• **City of Rosenberg Recycle Center** (3720 Airport Avenue) 832-595-3960

The City's self-service recycle facility is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Materials Accepted: Plastic containers that have a recycle number stamped on them, aluminum, steel and tin cans, as well as newspapers, magazines, office and school papers, catalogs, phone books and mail. No cardboard, please.

The center is not able to accept glass, trash, chemicals automotive fluids, dead animals or batteries.

• **Fort Bend Recycle Center** (1200 Blume Road) 281-633-7581

www.co.fort-bend.tx.us/quicklinks/engineering/RecycleCenter

Hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. (closed Wednesdays and holidays)

Materials Accepted: Plastics, cans, glass (all rinsed and drained); some items are accepted for a reasonable fee, such as televisions, tires, and paint. Pick up a copy of their brochure of acceptable items when you take your recycling. Hazardous household waste is only accepted Mondays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and the first Saturday of each month from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

• **Living Earth** (1700 East US 90A – Richmond) 281-342-6113 www.livingearth.net

Hours: 7 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. – Monday through Friday; Saturday 7 a.m. to 12 noon

Materials Accepted for a modest charge: Tree limbs, brush, leaves and grass clippings

• **Mobile Recycling** (1705 Blume Road) 281-344-8346

Hours: 7 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. – Monday through Friday

Materials Accepted: Concrete, asphalt, brick, and some ceramic tile (no porcelain tile, please)

• **Fort Bend Metal Recyclers** (3217 Avenue H) 281-341-5600

Hours: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. (closed for lunch 12 noon – 1 p.m.)

Materials they will purchase: stainless steel, carbide, brass, aluminum, and copper

• **Waste Services, Inc. Landfill** (14115 Davis Estate Road – Needville) 979-793-4430

Please call for information.

Please contact Citizen Relations at 832-595-3301 for further information.

ROSENBERG DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Building Our Future

Avenue H Business Assistance Grant Program

U.S. Highway 90A, or Avenue H as it's known in Rosenberg, has long served as a core commercial and economic artery of the City. In recent years however, with the construction of U.S. Highway 59, Avenue H has been replaced as the main transportation corridor in Fort Bend County. As is the case with numerous cities in Texas and around the country, traditional main street businesses have experienced economic strain in the form of increased competition from businesses along new transit thoroughfares.

In light of the historic importance of Avenue H for Rosenberg, as well as the challenges posed by shifting transportation patterns, the Rosenberg City Council adopted a Business Assistance Grant Program to invest in Avenue H businesses by encouraging them to make property enhancements through financial assistance with the costs of certain projects.

The Avenue H Business Assistance Grant Program provides a 50% matching reimbursement of up to \$2,500 for businesses along Avenue H for the following types of eligible projects:

- Façade improvements to storefronts (i.e. painting, remodeling, etc.)
- Construction of new signs
- Renovation or removal of existing signs
- Improvements made to landscaping, lighting, sidewalks, parking lots, and driveways
- Demolition of existing signs and structures

In April, the Avenue H Business Assistance Committee approved the first two program grants for Texas Storage (3619 Avenue H) and The Loan Store (4407 Avenue H). Texas Storage will use the grant funds to restore storage buildings through painting and replacement of damaged areas, while the The Loan Store will apply the funds to a project that will improve the functionality and appearance of its parking lot. In total, these two grants of \$2,500 each will be leveraged by business owners for projects totaling approximately \$34,000 in improvements.

Business owners interested in applying for Avenue H Business Assistance grants are required to review the program's guidelines and criteria and submit an application detailing the scope of work, budget, and project timeline. Funding eligibility is determined by a committee which meets quarterly to review applications. Business Assistance Grant Program guidelines and applications are available at www.rosenbergcodev.com.

Please contact the Economic Development Department at 832-595-3330 for further information about the Avenue H Business Assistance Grant Program.

832.595.3330 • www.rosenbergcodev.com



Hurricane Preparedness

Hurricane season officially begins June 1 and continues through November 30. This year, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is forecasting an above normal hurricane season in the Atlantic Basin. Residents are encouraged to plan early to protect people and property in the event a hurricane makes landfall on the Texas Gulf Coast.



Although Rosenberg is not in a storm surge area, we can be greatly affected by hurricanes which enter the Gulf of Mexico. In order to minimize risk and protect one's self, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) encourages all individuals to: **GET A KIT, MAKE A PLAN,** and **BE INFORMED.** FEMA's preparedness website, ready.gov, includes an immense amount of information related to emergency preparedness and, in particular, hurricane and disaster preparedness.

Step 1: Build A Kit / "To-Go Bag"

Get an emergency supply kit that includes items like non-perishable food, water, a battery-powered or hand-crank radio, extra flashlights and batteries. You may want to prepare a portable kit and keep it in your car in case you are told to evacuate. Whatever you do - put an emergency supply kit together now. Refill and re-check supplies after every storm.

Step 2: Make a Plan

Prepare your family by making a Family Emergency Plan. Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so it is important to know how you will contact one another, how you will get back together and what you will do in case of an emergency. Prepare your business. Putting a disaster plan in motion now will improve the likelihood that your company will survive and recover. Plan to protect your property. Hurricanes produce heavy rains that can cause extensive flood damage in coastal and inland areas. Everyone is at risk and should consider flood insurance protection. To learn more about your flooding risk and how to protect yourself and your business, visit floodsmart.gov or call 1-800-427-2419.

Step 3: Be Informed

Familiarize yourself with the terms that are used to identify a hurricane. A "hurricane watch" is when a hurricane is possible in your area. During a "hurricane watch" you should be prepared to evacuate and monitor local radio and television news outlets or listen to NOAA Weather Radio for the latest developments. A "hurricane warning" is when a hurricane is expected in your area. If local authorities advise you to evacuate, leave immediately. Hurricane hazards come in many forms: lightning, tornadoes, flooding, storm surge, high winds, even landslides or mud slides can be triggered in mountainous regions. Look carefully at the safety actions associated with each type of hurricane hazard and prepare your family disaster plan accordingly. Remember this is only a guide - the first and most important thing anyone should do when facing a hurricane threat is to use common sense.

Visit ready.gov to learn about damaging and potentially deadly hurricane hazards, what to do during a hurricane, how to get your children involved in preparedness planning, how to plan for people with disabilities and other access and functional needs, and how to care for pets.

For more information on disaster preparedness, visit Rosenberg's emergency response website, rosenbergresponds.com, or ready.gov, or hurricaneworkshop.com.

Sources: Texas Department of Public Safety - txdps.state.tx.us/dem; Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) - ready.gov.

City offices will be closed Monday, July 4, 2011, for Independence Day.

Garbage WILL NOT be collected on Monday, but will instead be collected the next regularly-scheduled pick-up day - Thursday.



Good Times to be Had in Rosenberg This Summer!

Rosenberg has something to entice everyone this summer! The City has teamed up with the Downtown Merchants of Rosenberg for the 2011 "Summer Fun in Historic Downtown Rosenberg" series, with events planned for every third Saturday from June to September. Additionally, the 12th Annual Family 4th Independence Day Celebration will be held Monday, July 4, 2011, at 6 p.m. at Seabourne Creek Nature Park (3831 Highway 36 South).



The Triumphs will entertain crowds at Family 4th this year, and a diverse spread of food and beverage vendors will be on hand to satisfy attendees' appetites. There will be a children's carnival area with a rock wall, inflatables, and zorball balls to keep kids entertained. Complimentary horse-drawn wagon rides will be given again this year, thanks to the generous donations of sponsors. Bring your lawn chairs and/or blankets and settle in for a relaxed, family-centered evening of great music, entertainment, and fireworks. The evening will culminate with Fort Bend County's largest fireworks display at approximately 9:15 p.m.

The "Summer Fun" events that will occur the third Saturday of each month in Rosenberg's Historic Downtown District from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. are designed to showcase Downtown and help celebrate Rosenberg's heritage while providing free, family-friendly activities and entertainment throughout the day. Downtown merchants will be open for business and are helping coordinate the Saturdays to raise awareness of the diversity of shops and goods available in Downtown Rosenberg. Summer Fun will run every 3rd Saturday from June 18 through September 17.

June 18, "Czech Heritage Day," will feature Cary Oswald & The Lazy Farmers Band and Texas Sounds Czech Band, which will take the 3rd Street Park stage along with local polka dancers throughout the day.



July 16, "Tribute to America," will include musical entertainment by The Sugar Land Brass Company, a blues and jazz band which many enjoyed during last year's Summer Concert series Downtown, and the Shot Up Street Sign Band. Be sure to sign up and try your hand (or mouth) at the hotdog-eating contest!

August 20, "Rosenberg Roundup" will feature Texas Wild, a country and western band, along with the Brazos River Pickers as the day's musical entertainment. There will be a children's area for calf-roping as well as a watermelon seed spitting contest.



September 17, "Hispanic Heritage Day," coincides with National Hispanic Heritage Month. The Downtown event will feature Mariachi bands, dance performances, and cultural exhibits throughout the day. The Fort Bend Hispanic Heritage Forum is helping coordinate activities and entertainment throughout the event.

"Summer Fun" events are coordinated and sponsored through the generous support of the Downtown Merchants of Rosenberg (shoprosenberg.net) and Bill and Renee Butler.

For further information on any of the above events, please visit rosenbergevents.com, or call 832-595-3520.

Gurecky and Sebesta Thanked for Years of Service

Mayor Joe Gurecky and Councilor Waline Sebesta were honored Tuesday, May 3, 2011, with a reception before the City Council Meeting for their years of service to the City.

Mayor Gurecky has served the past 12 years as Mayor, in addition to two previous terms (four years) as City Council Member representing District 4. Councilor Sebesta has served in the Council-at-

Large Position 1, for the last six years. Neither sought re-election in the May General Election.

Mayor Gurecky and Councilor Sebesta were presented plaques by the City, commemorating their service and dedication to the community.

Mayor Gurecky and Councilor Sebesta are pictured at left with Linda Cernosek, City Secretary; Councilor Joe Segura; Councilor Juan Salazar; Councilor Tom Suter; Councilor Dwayne Grigar; Councilor Susan Euton and Jack Hamlett, City Manager.



Mark Your Calendars for SUMMER FUN!

Saturday, June 18
Czech Heritage Day
Downtown
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Monday, July 4
Family 4th Celebration
Seabourne Creek
Nature Park
6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Saturday, July 16
Tribute to America
Downtown
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday, August 20
Rosenberg Round Up
Downtown
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday, September 17
Hispanic Heritage Day
Downtown
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Municipal Election Results

The City held an election on Saturday, May 14, 2011, for Mayor and six (6) City Council positions. The official results are as follows:

Mayor
Vincent Morales

At-Large Position 1
Run Off Election
to be held June 11 between
James Urbish and
William T. "Bill" Benton

At-Large Position 2
Cynthia McConathy

District 1
Juan Salazar

District 2
Joe Segura

District 3
Dwayne Grigar

District 4
Tom Suter

Newly-elected Council Members
will take oaths of office
Tuesday, June 7, 2011, at
Rosenberg City Hall at 6 p.m.



Rosenberg 2010 Drinking Water Quality Report Now Available

The City of Rosenberg has released its 2010 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. As mandated, a copy of the report is included in each June utility customer's bill. The 2010 Report is also available online at ci.rosenberg.tx.us.

The City of Rosenberg water system's drinking water meets or exceeds all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) drinking water requirements. The report is a summary of the quality of the water we provide our customers.

Should you have any questions related to the report, please contact the City of Rosenberg Utilities Department at (832) 595-3582.

Image Committee June BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS

Landscape:

Victor & Lonnie Cordova
1601 5th Street

Jose & Essie Esperanza
4813 Redbud Drive

Grady & Stacy Gage
2816 David Street

Carolyn Gilmore
2207 2nd Street

Ralph & Carol Hamrick
2430 Chestnut Drive

Drought Contingency Plan & Water Conservation Tips

The drought Texas is currently experiencing is one of the worst in recent history and we are each being affected by the lack of rainfall. With little to no rain forecast in the near future for our area, the City of Rosenberg would like to take the opportunity to make its citizens aware of the City's Drought Contingency Plan. The City's water supply system is carefully monitored on a continual basis. Although Rosenberg is not currently facing high enough demand on the City water system to warrant restrictions, that could change in the not-so-distant future if current weather conditions continue.



The City's available water resources are limited and subject to depletion during periods of extended drought, and the Texas Water Code and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) require all public water systems to develop a drought contingency plan to establish rules and procedures for orderly and efficient management of water supplied during drought conditions and other water-related emergencies. To this end, the Rosenberg City Council approved Ordinance 2010-31, an ordinance spelling out the City's Drought Contingency Plan, on December 21, 2010. The Drought Contingency Plan would be implemented in order to conserve the available water supply and protect the integrity of water supply facilities, with particular regard for domestic water use, sanitation, and fire protection, and to protect and preserve public health, welfare, and safety, and minimize the adverse impacts of water supply shortage or other water supply emergency conditions.

The Drought Contingency Plan spells out the levels (based on demand as a percent of total production capacity) at which various stages of water restrictions would be triggered in order to reduce the overall demand on the system. Restrictions spelled out in the plan begin with Stage 1 – in cases of mild water shortage conditions triggered when demand meets or exceeds 65% of production capacity - beginning with voluntary conservation, and escalate to Stage 4 – in cases of critical water shortage conditions triggered when demand reaches 85% of production capacity – which leads to many much stricter mandatory restrictions. The Drought Contingency Plan also allows for Stage 5 Restrictions to be implemented in incidents of emergency water shortage conditions which may be brought on by a major line break, pump or system failure, or natural or man-made contamination of the water supply source.

There are many steps residents can take to reduce their water consumption, including: watering your lawn in the morning (one inch, once a week, when needed - measure this by placing a 6-ounce tuna can on your lawn and stopping when it's full); turning off your water faucet while brushing your teeth (saves up to 4 gallons of water per minute); or installing water-efficient shower heads. Fun fact - if every household in Texas fixed one leaky faucet, we could reduce water use by more than 13 billion gallons a year! For more tips, please visit: takecareoftexas.org.

A copy of the complete Drought Contingency Plan (Ordinance 2010-31) is available on the City's website via the "Ordinances" link under "Our Government" at ci.rosenberg.tx.us. General questions regarding the ordinance may be directed to Citizen Relations at 832-595-3301.

Hammack Named June Employee of the Month

Billy Hammack, a Patrol Officer with the Rosenberg Police Department since 2004, was selected as Employee of the Month for an act of compassion that made a big difference in a little girl's life. Officer Hammack investigated an animal bite involving a three-year-old girl who had been bitten in the face by the family dog. The bite was severe and the child was transported immediately to the emergency room.



The following morning, when an Animal Control Officer arrived at the victim's home to complete the investigation on the animal, the child was contentedly playing with a balloon. Her parents explained that Officer Hammack had been by the house earlier to check on the bite victim and had brought her a bouquet of balloons. The parents were pleased that the balloons had kept their daughter entertained and distracted her from her wounds, and were impressed that the Police Officer had made such a kind gesture.

Thank you, Officer Hammack for going above and beyond to help lift the spirits of a child and for representing the Rosenberg Police Department and the City so wonderfully!

Officer Hammack is pictured above with City Manager Jack Hamlett, Chief of Police Robert Gracia, and Lieutenant Aaron Slater.



ROSENBERG DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Building Our Future

Travis Park Walking Trail Project Complete

The City of Rosenberg held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new walking trail at Travis Park, pictured below right, Wednesday, April 20. Members of the City Council, Rosenberg Development Corporation, and Rosenberg Parks and Recreation Board were on hand to celebrate the opening of the quarter-mile crushed granite gravel walking trail, funded by the Rosenberg Development Corporation (RDC) as part of its neighborhood park improvements project.

The new walking trail winds through shaded areas of the park, providing a convenient, safe, and relaxing place for neighborhood residents to exercise. Benches and pergola-type seating areas have been installed along the trail, and drainage improvements were completed as part of the project to help prevent standing water after heavy rains and to facilitate drainage around the park.

Travis Park is one of nine community parks operated by the City of Rosenberg and is open to the public during daylight hours. For more information, visit the Parks Department page on the City website, **ci.rosenberg.tx.us**, or contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 832-595-3960.



Pictured below, from left to right, are: *Darren McCarthy*, Parks and Recreation Director; *Bill Knesek*, RDC; *Michelle Bermudes*, Parks Board; *Anton Kostak*, Parks Board; *Councilor Juan Salazar*; *Councilor Dwayne Grigar*; *Janie Warstler*, RDC and Parks Board; *Councilor Susan Euton*, RDC; *Teresa Bailey*, Parks Board; *Bertha Nell Kelm*, Parks Board; *Stanley Kucherka*, Parks Board; *Mayor Joe Gurecky*, RDC; *Matt Fielder*, Economic Development Director; *Laurie Cook*, Parks Board; and *John Dorman*, Parks Board.



The RDC was established through public referendum in 1995 and is allocated one-half cent of the City's sales tax proceeds to invest in projects that promote or develop new or expanding business, create jobs, and improve the quality of life in the community. The RDC Board of Directors meets the second Thursday of each month at noon at the Rosenberg Civic Center. The public is encouraged to attend these meetings. For more information, please visit **rosenbergcodev.com** or call 832-595-3330.



2011-2013 Rosenberg City Council Take Oaths of Office

Following the May 14 General Municipal Election and June 11 Special Runoff Election, the newly-elected and returning members of the Rosenberg City Council took their oaths of office on June 7 and June 21, respectively. A brief biography of each elected official follows.

Mayor, Vincent M. Morales, Jr., was elected May 14, 2011. Mayor Morales is Senior Vice President and co-owner of GreenScape Associates, LLC, a landscape management/design/build firm. He is active in numerous community organizations and has served on the West Fort Bend Management District. What Mayor Morales likes best about Rosenberg is its small town feel, with a multi-generational commitment to community.

Councilor At-Large Position 1, William Benton, was elected June 11, 2011. He is owner of Benton Limousine, ABC Bonding, Benton Realty and Rose-Rich Realty. Councilor Benton has degrees from Wharton County Junior College and the University of Houston. He is active in the community and has served on the Rosenberg Image Committee and the City's Sign Review Task Force. One of Councilor Benton's favorite things about Rosenberg is the friendly, welcoming people who live here.

Councilor At-Large Position 2, Cynthia McConathy, was elected May 14, 2011. She is retired from a career in information technology and is a graduate of Lamar Consolidated High School and Houston Community College. Councilor McConathy is an ordained minister, is active in many local charities/outreach efforts, and has served on the Rosenberg Planning Commission and the City's Sign Review Task Force. Councilor McConathy feels that what makes Rosenberg unique is the fact that we were established as a railroad town and have continued to thrive because of our pioneering spirit.

Councilor District 1, Juan Salazar, was elected to his seat in May 2009. He graduated from Lamar Consolidated High School and earned degrees from Wharton County Junior College and Texas A&M University. Councilor Salazar is co-owner of Dick's Auto Electric. He is active in his church, Our Lady of Guadalupe, and serves on the City's Employee Benefits Committee and Finance/Audit Committee. Councilor Salazar thinks the most unique thing about Rosenberg is the Rosenberg Railroad Museum because it helps us preserve the City's rich history.

Councilor District 2, Joe Segura, was elected in 1992, and served until May 1999. He has continued to serve since his re-election in May 2005. Councilor Segura graduated from Lamar High School and works for the Texas Department of Transportation. He is currently attending Wharton County Junior College and has served on the Rosenberg Parks and Recreation Board. Councilor Segura feels that the best thing about Rosenberg is the many citizens who are second, third, or fourth generation residents, who strive to make Rosenberg a good place to live and work.

Councilor District 3, Dwayne Grigar, was originally elected to his seat in May 2003. He is a graduate of Wharton County Junior College and Texas State Technical Institute, Waco, and works for Fort Bend County Drainage as Assistant to the Engineer. Councilor Grigar has served on the Rosenberg Planning Commission, is currently Chairman of the Image Committee, and is active in several community service groups. Councilor Grigar thinks the most unique thing about Rosenberg is the downtown antique shopping and railroad switching stations.

Councilor District 4 - Tom Suter has served since his election in May 2005. He is a graduate of St. Mary's University and is Parish Business Administrator for Holy Rosary Catholic Church. He has served on the Rosenberg Planning Commission, and several church and community committees and advisory councils. Mayor Pro-Tem Suter thinks the best thing about Rosenberg is that we are a safe community that is a great place to work and play due to excellent public safety, a low tax rate, and plenty of job opportunities available in retail, manufacturing and a variety of industries.

Left photo - June 7: Preparing for their Oath of Office administered by Fort Bend County Judge Bob Hebert, are Cynthia McConathy, Juan Salazar, Dwayne Grigar, Vincent Morales, Tom Suter, and Joe Segura.

Right photo - June 21: William Benton takes his Oath of Office as administered by Mayor Morales.



For further
information,
please visit the
City's website,
ci.rosenberg.tx.us,
or contact the
City Secretary's
Office at
(832) 595-3340.



Euton Recognized for Council Service



Councilor Susan Euton was honored Tuesday, June 7, 2011, with a reception before the City Council Meeting for her years of service to the City as Councilor At-Large, Position 1. Councilor Euton has served on the Rosenberg City Council since 2009 and was presented a plaque by the City commemorating her service and dedication to the community.

Pictured are: Councilor Euton (far right) with her plaque and the rest of the City Council with which she served, including Councilor Juan Salazar, Councilor Dwayne Grigar, Mayor Joe Gurecky, Councilor Tom Suter, Councilor Joe Segura, and Councilor Waline Sebesta.

Jimenez Achieves Municipal Court Clerk II Certification

Lucilo Jimenez has worked in the Rosenberg Municipal Court since 2009. On June 3, he received his certification as a Certified Court Clerk Level II from the Boards of Directors of the Texas Court Clerks Association, Texas Municipal Courts Association and the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center and Texas State University.



Topics of study included in the Clerk II Certification program are: equal justice under law; ethics; case processing; code of criminal procedure and the penal code; bond forfeitures; juveniles and minors; financial management; records and caseload management; legal research; and court technology.

Lucilo is pictured receiving a Certificate of Recognition from Mayor Vincent M. Morales, Jr. at the June 21 City Council Meeting, as Court Administrator Angelia Hayes applauds a job well done.

Don't Miss Out on Summer Fun in Historic Downtown Rosenberg

Rosenberg has something to entice everyone this summer! The City has teamed up with the Downtown Merchants of Rosenberg for the 2011 "Summer Fun" series, with events planned downtown for every third Saturday from June to September. The events are held in Rosenberg's Historic Downtown District from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and are designed to showcase Downtown and help celebrate Rosenberg's heritage while providing free, family-friendly activities and entertainment throughout the day. Downtown merchants will be open for business and are helping coordinate the events to raise awareness of the diversity of shops and goods available in Downtown Rosenberg. Upcoming events include:

July 16, "Tribute to America," with musical entertainment by The Sugarland Brass Company, a blues and jazz band which many enjoyed during last year's Summer Concert series Downtown, and the Shot Up Street Sign Band. Be sure to sign up and try your hand (or mouth) at the hotdog eating contest! Rosenberg Police and Fire Departments will be also be on hand with demonstrations and kid's activities.



August 20, "Rosenberg Roundup" will feature Texas Wild, a country and western band, along with the Brazos River Pickers as the day's musical entertainment. There will be a children's area for calf-roping as well as a watermelon seed spitting contest.

September 17, "Hispanic Heritage Day," coincides with National Hispanic Heritage Month. The Fort Bend Hispanic Heritage Forum is helping coordinate activities and entertainment throughout the day that will include bands, dance performances, cultural exhibits and children's activities.



The "Summer Fun" series is coordinated and sponsored through the generous support of the Downtown Merchants of Rosenberg (shoprosenberg.net), Bill Butler, and the City of Rosenberg. For further information on any of the above events, please visit the calendar of events at ci.rosenberg.tx.us, or call 832-595-3520.

City Projects Update

Bamore Road Improvement Project Phase II

City officials and representatives from Gonzalez Construction recently celebrated completion of the Bamore Road Phase II Improvement Project which began in June 2010. The project included widening and drainage improvements from Bernard Avenue to just north of Southgate Drive, and a sidewalk along the east side of the roadway.



Blume Road Improvement Project Phase I

Utility relocations have begun along Blume Road as part of Phase I of the Blume Road Improvement Project which will include widening, drainage improvements, and sidewalks along one side of the road way from Spur 529 to Seabourne Creek. Road construction is expected to commence by the end of July, and the City's contractor is Hurtado Construction. Drivers are asked to exercise extra caution in this area during the construction period.

For further information, please contact Citizen Relations at (832) 595-3301.



Image Committee Beautification Awards

Each month the Image Committee diligently recognizes Rosenberg residents for their beautiful yards. Nominations come from our Councilors or employees, but some are also received from residents. City Council recognizes each recipient in a City Council meeting, and a sign is placed in each yard for the month of recognition.

The Image Committee awards properties for both landscaping and renovation excellence to recognize efforts at beautifying our City.

The Image Committee welcomes all recommendations, and would like to hear from you if you see a property that deserves recognition – whether it is a residence or a business.

Individuals are encouraged to nominate properties for Image Committee award consideration by visiting the City's web site: ci.rosenberg.tx.us and clicking on "Contact Us", which will take you to an e-mail form to make suggestions or comments to the City. Simply fill out the form and submit it on-line, and your recommendation will be considered. If you prefer, you may call the Citizen Relations Coordinator at (832) 595-3301, with your suggestion.

Look around and submit your recommendation. The success of this program depends on you!

Image Committee

July BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS

Landscape:

Vincent & Noryee Bealo
5505 Walid Lane

Joseph & Cara Becerra
2708 Parkway Avenue

Cheryl & Jay Hahn
2721 Chupik Street

Donnie & Mei-Ling Melton
2524 Sequoia Lane

Ralph & Carol Hamrick
2430 Chestnut Drive

Renovation:

Marla Van Overbeke
1405 Avenue I



Mirelez Receives Houston Exchange Club Award

Investigator David Mirelez was recently honored at the Texas Louisiana Gulf Coast District Exchange Club's 46th Annual Crime Prevention Dinner in Houston for his work as a K-9 Interdiction Officer with the Rosenberg Police Department. He is pictured with his K-9 partner, Tacey, as they prepare for an educational demonstration outside the Rosenberg Police Department.



Officer Mirelez has spent his years in law enforcement focusing on the detection, deterrence and dismantling of drug traffickers and organizations. Officer Mirelez was recognized for his efforts to interrupt trafficking and intercept contraband travelling through Rosenberg. His work with his K-9 partner, Tacey, has resulted in seizures of approximately \$1.35 million in US currency and \$1.5 million (street value) in cocaine and marijuana.

Investigator Mirelez has developed a reputation among his law enforcement peers as an expert in his field, and through his work, has prevented a magnitude of criminal offenses spawned by the illegal drug trade.

The City of Rosenberg can be proud to count him as a member of the Rosenberg Police Department. Congratulations, Investigator Mirelez, on a job well done!

Police Explorers Compete at Rio Grande Competition

Rosenberg Police Explorer Post #2120 competed in the 2011 Rio Grande Council Law Enforcement Explorer Competition on May 7, 2011, at the Marine Military Academy in Harlingen. The Rosenberg Post took four teams of four explorers (16 total) to the competition, and were sponsored by Another Time Soda Fountain and Café.

Explorer competitions test student knowledge and skills in different police crime scenarios involving physical agility, crisis intervention, and tactics of working a traffic stop. Each competing team gets four different scenarios on which they are judged.

Rosenberg advisors, Detective Randy Weishiemer and Officer Timothy Kraus, accompanied the team which brought home 1st Place trophies in the Building Search, Arrest and Search Warrant, and Domestic Violence scenarios; 2nd Place trophies in the DWI and Felony Traffic Stop scenarios, and 3rd Place trophies in the Domestic Violence and Shoot-Don't Shoot scenarios. The Post also brought home a 2nd Place Team Overall trophy from the competition which included approximately 30 teams from around the State.

Post #2120 members who competed are pictured below, along with advisors Kraus and Weishiemer. They included (in no particular order): Shelby Macha, Andrew Lopez, Tomas Ramirez, Jonathon Barr, Laura Palacios, Christina Barr, Lizbeth Ocampo, Patricio Ramirez, Zvonimir Smith, Tyler Severin, Kenny Pace, Colby Stratman, James Fowler, Jonathan Flores, Peter Rodriguez, and Ari Rauda.



The Law Enforcement Explorer Program was created by Boy Scouts of America more than 50 years ago. It is designed to expose young men and women to the career opportunities available in law enforcement and to allow young people to experience the various aspects of police work, assisting them in developing leadership skills.

For further information on the Rosenberg Police Department Explorer Program, please contact Detective Randy Weishiemer at 832-595-3700.

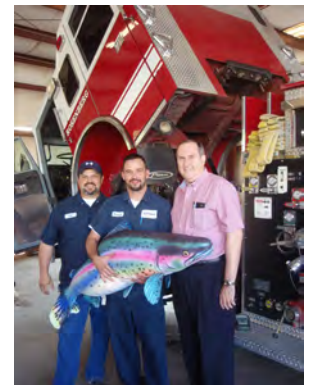
Spillers Named July Employee of the Month

Patrick Spillers, who so generously gave his time to be the Bunny at this year's Easter Egg Hunt on April 16, has been named Employee of the Month at the City of Rosenberg.

Patrick has been a mechanic with the City's Fleet Maintenance Department since May 2008. He was nominated by his fellow employees because of his patience and wonderful way with all the children at the event. City staff organizing the Easter Egg Hunt said they could not have pulled it off without him.

Patrick is pictured with Val Martinez, Chief Mechanic and City Manager Jack Hamlett.

Thank you, Patrick, for volunteering for this important community event. You certainly proved yourself to be a "good egg"!



ROSENBERG DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Building Our Future

Economic Development and Transportation

The provision of quality public infrastructure, such as water, wastewater, and roads, is imperative to the success of business enterprises within a community. In Rosenberg, three rail lines and three major state highways converge, making transportation particularly important to our economic viability, and making ease of access and maneuverability of products a critical concern of businesses looking to locate within our city.



Efficient road infrastructure provides valuable social and economic prospects that result in benefits including employment, additional business and economic investment, and accessibility to regional and international markets. Reliable roadways that meet the demands of the local residents and business community are especially important to Rosenberg, given the City's reliance on industrial activity for its economic well-being. Rosenberg businesses rely extensively on US 59, SH 36, Avenue H and various City streets to move commodities, merchandise and manufactured goods to the Port of Freeport, the Port of Houston and throughout Texas, the Nation and world.

The City of Rosenberg and the Rosenberg Development Corporation (RDC) have partnered on a number of initiatives to improve road mobility. Projects the RDC has funded include:

US 59 Frontage Roads: The US 59 frontage roads, between FM 2218 and SH 36, were among the first projects tackled by the RDC after the Corporation was formed in 1995. The 1.8 miles of new frontage roads opened in 1999 facilitating new development.

Reading Road Overpass and Extension: In 1997, the RDC funded the construction of an interchange, including on and off ramps, on the north and south sides of US 59 and the Reading Road overpass. A cooperative project between the City and the RDC in 2003 extended Reading Road to Benton Road, further facilitating development in the surrounding area.



Louise Street: The RDC funded the resurfacing of Louise Street as well as the construction of sidewalks along the road.

Reese Road: RDC funds were utilized for the improvement of Reese Road as part of the National Oilwell Varco relocation project. The project also included the extension of 3-phase electrical and natural gas lines in the right-of-way.

Bamore Road: \$1.3 million in RDC funds was utilized to widen Bamore Road from the US 59 frontage road to Klauke Road, increasing road width to four lanes, and improving drainage and safety.



Spacek Road Realignment: The RDC funded drainage improvements along Spacek Road as part of a larger initiative to improve the connectivity of Spacek and Reading Road and with Brazos Town Center, and to allow for the expansion of Biotics Research Corporation.

FM 2218: \$1.2 million in RDC funds were leveraged for overall project to widen FM 2218 from US 59 to FM 1640, adding traffic and turn lanes, storm sewers, curb and gutter, and sidewalks.

For more information about transportation and economic development initiatives in Rosenberg, please visit rosenbergcodev.com or call 832-595-3330.

832.595.3330 • www.rosenbergcodev.com



Macario Garcia Park named in Honor of Medal of Honor Recipient

Rosenberg's Macario Garcia Park, 716 Blume Road, is named in honor of a local Medal of Honor recipient. The Medal of Honor is the United States' highest military honor. Next time you drive past or spend time at Macario Garcia Park, let it serve as a reminder of the sacrifices so many make for the future of our great Nation!



Macario Garcia was born on January 2, 1920, in Villa de Castano, Mexico, and at the age of 3, his family moved to the United States, eventually settling in Fort Bend County. In 1942, following the outbreak of World War II, at the age of 22, with only a third grade education, Macario enlisted in the Army and was assigned to Company B, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division. Mr. Garcia was wounded in Normandy, France, in June of 1944, but returned to his unit. In November of the same year, Staff Sergeant Macario Garcia's unit became pinned down by a barrage of mortar fire near Grosshau, Germany. Despite his wounds, Garcia refused to retreat, and found a way to advance and single-handedly cripple two enemy machine-gun emplacements, capturing German soldiers in the process. Only after his unit's objective was complete, did Staff Sergeant Garcia allow himself to be removed for medical treatment.

As a result of his exemplary military conduct, inspiring heroism, and unparalleled bravery, Garcia earned a Bronze Star for bravery and a Purple Heart for being wounded in action. Most prestigiously of all, on August 23, 1945, at a ceremony in the White House, President Harry S. Truman awarded Staff Sergeant Macario Garcia the Medal of Honor – the United States' highest military honor. Receiving a Medal of Honor placed Garcia in an elite group of American heroes. Moreover, Garcia cemented his place in American history by being the first Mexican immigrant to receive the illustrious decoration.



Macario Garcia became an American citizen on June 25, 1947, and earned his high school diploma the same year. Along with his wife, Alicia Reyes, he raised three children in Fort Bend County, and spent the next 25 years working for the Veteran's Administration while serving in the Army Reserves. Sadly, Mr. Garcia's life was cut short when, at the age of 52, he died in a car accident. He was buried in Houston National Cemetery with full military honors. As a further tribute, there are numerous civic locations bearing his name, including the Macario Garcia Army Reserve Center in Houston, which then Vice President George Bush dedicated in 1983.



Following Macario Garcia's death, the City of Rosenberg built and opened Macario Garcia Memorial Park, which was recognized with an official Historical Marker by the Texas Historical Commission in 2006.

This community park, located at 716 Blume Road, boasts over twelve (12) acres with picnic shelters, barbeque grills, playground equipment, lighted basketball courts, a lighted ball field, walking/jogging trails, and a restroom facility with water fountains. In recent years, upgrades have been made to the trail system, fencing, and lighting. Most notably, Macario Garcia Memorial Park received new playground equipment in 2010, and in 2011 the ball field was reworked into a much-needed adult softball field.

In 2011, thanks to the generosity of the Rosenberg Development Corporation, a pergola was built and a flagpole was erected, so that the City might honor the park's namesake, Macario Garcia, on military holidays.

City offices will be closed Monday, September 5, 2011, for Labor Day.

Garbage WILL NOT be collected on Monday, but will instead be collected the next regularly-scheduled pick-up day - Thursday.



When it comes to Kids and Cars, Remember - Safety First!

Did you know? Car accidents are the leading cause of death for children aged 3 to 14, and an estimated 8,959 lives were saved by child restraints between 1975 and 2008.

Rosenberg Police Officer John Johnson recently completed his Child Passenger Safety Technician certification. During the extensive course offered by Texas Children's Hospital and developed by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Officer Johnson learned about crash dynamics, injury prevention strategies, child restraint selection, installation, and vehicle occupant protection. The course was taught through a combination of hands-on activities, lectures, and discussions involving a wide range of child restraint and vehicle belt systems.

The NHTSA website includes the following recommendations for all ages: all children under the age of 13 should ride in the back seat; seats should be selected based on the child's age, height, and weight; children should ride in a car seat as long as they fit the seat's height and weight requirements; always follow your car seat manufacturer's instructions and your vehicle owner's manual on how to install; and most importantly, get help! Certified technicians are available to check your car seat installation for free. Visit the NHTSA website to find your nearest inspection station or to register your child seat and receive notifications of defects and recalls.

Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (nhtsa.gov/safety/CPS)

Almazan Earns Municipal Court Clerk I Certification

Deborah Almazan has worked for the City of Rosenberg since August 2002. Ms. Almazan started with the City as Secretary for the Parks and Recreation and Public Works departments, and transferred to Municipal Court in August 2009. On June 21, 2011, Deborah received her official certification as Certified Court Clerk Level I, by the Boards of Directors of Texas Court Clerks Association, Texas Municipal Courts Association, and the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center in cooperation with Texas State University – San Marcos.

Clerk I certification is achieved after completion of at least 40 hours of educational training and passing a written certification test. Clerks receiving this certification must complete education courses annually to maintain their certification. Clerk I certification includes studies in such areas as ethics, procedures before trial, trial processes, post trial procedures, state and city reports, traffic law, juveniles and minors, communications, and stress management, as well as an overview of the courts, authorities, and duties.

Congratulations, Deborah, on a job well done!



Summer Fun in Historic Downtown Rosenberg Continues!

Rosenberg has something to entice everyone this summer! The City has teamed up with the Downtown Merchants of Rosenberg (shoprosenberg.net) for the 2011 "Summer Fun" series, with events planned downtown for every third Saturday from June to September. The events are held in Rosenberg's Historic Downtown District from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and are designed to showcase Downtown and help celebrate Rosenberg's heritage while providing free, family-friendly activities and entertainment throughout the day. Downtown merchants will be open for business and are coordinating the events to raise awareness of the diversity of shops and goods available in Downtown Rosenberg. Upcoming events include:



August 20, "Rosenberg Roundup," featuring Texas Wild, a country and western band, along with the Brazos River Pickers as the day's musical entertainment. There will be a children's area for calf-roping as well as a watermelon seed spitting contest.

September 17, "Hispanic Heritage Day," coincides with National Hispanic Heritage Month. The Fort Bend Hispanic Heritage Forum is helping coordinate activities and entertainment throughout the day that will include bands, dance performances, cultural exhibits, and children's activities.



For further information on any of the above events, please visit the calendar of events at ci.rosenberg.tx.us, or call 832-595-3520.



Blume Road Project

Work began the week of July 18, on Phase I of the Blume Road Improvement Project. Hurtado Construction is the City's contractor. The project will include widening, as well as utility and drainage improvements, on Blume Road from Spur 529 to Seabourne Creek and take at least a year to complete.

When Phase I is finished, this section of Blume Road will consist of three concrete lanes with a designated center turn lane, and curb and gutter, in addition to sidewalks down the east side of the road for the full length of the project and on both sides of the road in the residential portions. Water, sanitary sewer, and storm sewer improvements will also be completed as part of the project.

Work will begin at Seabourne Creek and progress toward Spur 529. During construction, property owners will have access to their properties; however, through-traffic may be limited during the construction period. Temporary detours will occur, with signage set by the contractor. Drivers are advised to exercise caution in this area, to plan their travel accordingly, and to use established detour routes.

Public utility companies continue to complete their relocations along Blume Road. Residents along Blume Road and intersecting streets should anticipate temporary disruptions in some services during these utility relocations. Citizens should contact their local service providers regarding any extended service disruptions.

Residents may contact Citizen Relations at (832) 595-3301 with questions related to the improvement project.



Image Committee

August BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS

Landscape:

Benjamin & Mary Davila
5423 Belvedere Drive

Hurley & Ginger Johnson
2707 David Street

Ted & Judy Mensik
926 Klare Avenue

Richard & Fran Naylor
1424 Callender Street

Back to School Safety Reminders



It's that time of year again. Take heed of the following reminders as kids gear up and head back to school this August...

- Slow down and take extra caution in school zones, and remember - the use of mobile phones is prohibited.
- Keep eyes out for kids, parents, and traffic in areas that have been "quiet" over the last few months.
- Take precautions on roads where school buses may be stopping to load or unload and children will be crossing the roadway, especially during peak times in the morning and afternoon.



Tips for Maintaining a Healthy Lawn During Drought

The inevitable dry and hot weather is an annual challenge for Texans, but with the exceptional drought this year, the challenge is even harder than normal to overcome. Brazos River Authority offers a few helpful pointers for keeping things green and conserving water:

- When choosing plants, consider how well suited they are to live in this climate. Remember, native plants and grasses are more drought-tolerant and require less watering with a greater chance of survival in drought as well as spring rains.
- Be careful not to over-fertilize, as it can do more damage than good. Follow the manufacturer's instructions and remember – more is not always better!
- Water only as needed – usually no more than once a week – and avoid over-watering. Excessive water will wash into storm drains. More infrequent and deep waterings can train your lawn to be more drought tolerant, by establishing deeper roots which require less water than shallow ones.
- Water early in the morning to minimize evaporation.
- Mulch plays an important role in keeping water from evaporating quickly, and adding compost to the soil around the base of plants can help them retain moisture and add valuable nutrients.



Remember – anything we do to conserve water now will help provide for the future of our families and communities!

For further information and educational materials, visit brazos.org, or tceq.state.tx.us.



Residents Reminded of Fire Safety

Although our area has seen some rain in the past weeks, the City and the Rosenberg Fire Department would like to remind citizens about the importance of taking steps each day to prevent fires, especially in the extreme drought we currently face. The following tips are provided as general guidelines:

- Never leave barbecue pits unattended. When barbecuing, place your pit/cooker on concrete instead of the grass. If using charcoal or wood, make sure the fire has been extinguished by soaking it with a garden hose before disposing of the coals.
- Do not use any kind of fireworks, including sparklers. Any firework produces enough heat to start a fire. In dry conditions, a small fire can become a large one very quickly.
- Dispose of cigarette butts in an appropriate container. Flipping them from the window of your car is never a good idea, but it can be disastrous in times of drought and high fire risk.
- Be a good neighbor. Do not use fireworks, and encourage your neighbors to refrain also. Do not be afraid to call for assistance from the Fire or Police Departments if someone is jeopardizing your neighborhood or property. Public safety concerns related to fire risk may be relayed to Rosenberg Police Dispatch at 832-595-3700.

For further information and tips on how to help prevent wildfires, please visit the Texas Forest Service's website at: txforestservice.tamu.edu, or the National Fire Prevention Association's webpage, nfpa.org.

Gas prices got you down? Try Public Transit!



Fort Bend County offers several affordable and easy-to-use transit options for County residents, including a demand-response service, commuter park and ride services, shared ride bus services for disabled individuals, and curb-to-curb service, to name a few.

For more information, visit the Transportation Office's website, co.fort-bend.tx.us, and select "Public Transportation" from the Quick Links drop down menu; call the office at (866) 751-TRIP(8747) or (281) 633-RIDE(7433); or email Public_Transportation@co.fort-bend.tx.us.

Start saving money today!

ROSENBERG DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Building Our Future

Sunset Park Improvements

The Rosenberg Development Corporation (RDC) is authorized by State law to engage in projects that improve the community's quality of life. These projects can take various forms, from developing new attractions to improving neighborhood parks. Enhancements made to neighborhood parks are an important aspect of economic development, as businesses seek to relocate their operations and employees to locations with a high quality of life.

Sunset Park, located at 2017 Mulcahy, is one of nine (9) community parks operated by the City of Rosenberg. At the April 2011 Regular RDC meeting, the Board directed staff to develop a proposal for a walking/jogging trail at Sunset Park, similar to the recently completed Travis Park trail.

The proposed RDC project will consist of the construction of a 0.54 mile trail, four (4) additional benches, replacement of an existing water fountain, and painting of two (2) pavilions (pictured below left). The proposed trail winds through shaded areas of the park and between the baseball fields. Please see the map on the right for the proposed trail location.

Drainage improvements will be completed as part of the project to help prevent standing water after heavy rains and to facilitate improved drainage around the park. The improvement project will also include the installation of two (2) pergolas (pictured below right) to add shade to areas along the trail that are not shaded by the trees.

The improvements to Travis Park and Sunset Park are part of an ongoing RDC initiative to update and improve neighborhood parks throughout Rosenberg.

For more information, visit the Rosenberg Development Corporation website, www.rosenbergcodev.com, or contact the Economic Development Department at (832) 595-3330.



September 2011

National Night Out Set for Tuesday, October 4

Public safety officers from the Rosenberg Police and Fire Departments will join residents, City officials and local merchants to celebrate National Night Out (NNO) - America's Night Out Against Crime - on Tuesday, October 4, 2011. Communities across Texas will join forces for the 28th annual crime and drug prevention event. National Night Out is sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch and the Rosenberg Police Department. This year's event is also being supported in part by TARGET®, a national corporate sponsor.



NNO was organized by the National Association of Town Watch in 1984. The evening is designed to: heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime effort; strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and send a message to criminals letting them know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back. Last year's event involved over 37 million people in more than 15,000 communities from all 50 states.

From 7 p.m., residents in neighborhoods throughout Rosenberg are asked to lock their doors, turn on outside lights and spend the evening outside with neighbors and police. National Project Coordinator Matt Peskin said, *"This is a night for America to stand together to promote awareness, safety and neighborhood unity. National Night Out showcases the vital importance of police-community partnerships and citizen involvement in our fight to build a safer nation. On NNO, we invite neighborhoods nationwide to join us in giving crime and drugs a going away party."*

Rosenberg's National Night Out will include neighborhood block parties throughout the City, and a business merchants' event at Brazos Town Center. Individuals or groups interested in organizing or hosting a neighborhood block party should contact the RPD at 832-595-3726 and speak with Lt. Colin Davidson.

This year's merchant event will again be held in the TARGET® parking lot and will feature the Rosenberg Fire Department and the Rosenberg Police Department, who will be out in force to give demonstrations and tours of equipment, and to visit with Rosenberg residents and merchants. The event at Brazos Town Center will begin at 7 p.m. and continue until dark. The night will include demonstrations by the RPD canine unit, children's activities, and many Rosenberg merchants will have goodies for the crowd to enjoy.

According to RPD Lt. Colin Davidson, *"We're actively seeking groups and individuals to host neighborhood block parties. Although the community-wide merchant event at Target is an integral part of NNO in Rosenberg, what makes NNO truly a community event, is neighbors getting out to meet one another in the areas in which they live and play. When residents and business owners meet one another, generating discussions and relationships, they are able to share important information about crime prevention and risk abatement, the value of which is immeasurable to community safety and cohesion."*

For more information on National Night Out, please visit nationalnightout.org.

For information on the Rosenberg event, please visit the City's website, ci.rosenberg.tx.us, and select "Departments" then "Police Department" and finally "Community Relations", or contact RPD at (832) 595-3700.

**City offices will be closed Friday, September 23, 2011,
for Fort Bend County Fair Day.**

Garbage WILL be collected as regularly-scheduled.

RPD Partners to Benefit Fort Bend Women's Center



The Rosenberg Police Department is kicking off a two-week donation drive benefitting the Fort Bend County Women's Center, a non-profit organization assisting survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and their children. Donations of gently used clothing (women's, men's and children's), dishware, shoes, linens, accessories, jewelry, electronics, sporting goods and toys are needed.* **Items can be dropped off from September 26 through October 7**, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. **at the Rosenberg Police Department** located at 2120 4th Street in Rosenberg.

Take advantage of this great opportunity and help a worthy cause by cleaning out your closets and making a difference in someone's life! For more information about this donation drive, please call (281) 344-5784. If you or someone you know is a victim of domestic violence or sexual assault, please call the Center's 24-hour hotline at 281-342-4357 (HELP).

*Large houseware items such as washers, dryers, refrigerators and furniture are also accepted and must be picked up separately at a place of residence or business by calling (281) 342-5004 to arrange a convenient time. All items must be in working condition to be accepted.

Save Money and Conserve Water

Texas is experiencing some of the most severe drought conditions in more than 100 years. It becomes critical that all residents do our part to conserve water – not simply because of lack of rain, but also for the future of our water supply. A few facts and suggestions are outlined below to help us take stock and begin to change some of our habits concerning everyday water consumption.

How much water do you use every day? Although we only need to drink a few glasses of water every day, we consume water for a myriad of other tasks, and it all adds up to an average daily use, per person, of 140-170 gallons. Luckily, saving water is easy--it just requires putting a little extra thought into your daily activities. By choosing alternatives to water-wasting activities and technologies, you can reduce your water waste and do your part to help the environment, while saving some money in the process.

DID YOU KNOW?

- A dripping faucet can waste more than 2000 gallons of water per year
- Americans drink 110 million gallons of water per year
- Less than 2% of Earth's water supply is fresh
- Running a faucet for five minutes uses as much electricity (for water purification, delivery, and treatment) as burning a 60 watt light bulb for 14 hours?

Effective water conservation requires consideration the activities and actions that waste the most water including :

Showering and Bathing - Combined, these two activities account for more than 27% of the water used in an average American residence. A ten-minute shower can consume over 40 gallons of water. Consider taking shorter showers, shower only once per day, and use water-efficient shower heads.

Toilet Flushing - Install water-efficient toilets, or toilets that utilize a dual-flush system, and fix that leaky toilet. Toilet flushing accounts for over 800 gallons of water use per household each week.

Dish Washing - To cut down on wasted water, use the dishwasher--it only requires 8-12 gallons to get the job done. Hand washing, on the other hand, requires up to 20. If you must do the dishes by hand, fill the sink with soapy water rather than letting the faucet run constantly. Limit the use of the garbage disposal which can cause over-use of water.

Clothes Washing - Only run the washer when you have enough laundry to use the Large or Extra Large cycle. Also, consider purchasing a high efficiency (HE) washing machine if you decide to upgrade your current model.

Landscaping - Utilize mulch to conserve moisture, consider watering deeply once a week (one inch) and only water early in the morning. As an example of the importance of reducing water for landscaping, according to one source in California, more than half the water used in the state is for landscaping and lawn-watering.

Water Conservation Measures That Cost You Nothing - Making upgrades to your home, such as low-flow shower heads, and low-flow toilets can save thousands of gallons of water each year and save you money in the long run, but the most cost-effective water conservation measures are those that don't cost anything to begin with. Simply repairing leaky faucets, shutting off the tap while brushing your teeth or shaving, or taking a shorter shower can cut your water bill dramatically and preserve the water that is available.

Sources: waterconservationmeasures.com and wateriq.org

Annual Registration of Residential Rental Properties

All rental properties must be registered by September 30

The City of Rosenberg Code of Ordinances, Chapter 6, Article 19, requires that all residential rental properties within the City be registered annually by September 30.

Residential rental properties must be registered at the Rosenberg Fire Marshal's office located at 1012 5th Street. The necessary documents for property registration may be picked up at the office or downloaded at ci.rosenberg.tx.us by selecting "Departments" then "Fire" and "Residential Rental Property Inspections".

Residential rental properties not registered by the September 30 deadline may be subject to additional administrative and inspection fees as specified in the City's Code.

For further information or questions about the City's Residential Rental Inspection Program, please contact the Fire Marshal's Office at 832-595-3600.

Last Chance for Summer Fun!

September 17
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Hispanic Heritage Day
in
Historic Downtown
Rosenberg

Live music, dancing,
cultural exhibits,
jalapeno eating
contest, kids activities
& much more!



Image Committee

September BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS

Landscape:

Douglas & JoAnn Gorka
2208 Spruce Drive

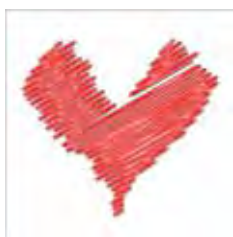
Linda Kapavik
202 Golden Grain Drive

Elvis & Ronda Milic
1334 Ellis Grove Lane

Cathy Pittman
2707 Monroe Avenue

Toribio & Barbara Ybarra
1519 7th Street

Rosenberg Has Heart



The Safety and Wellness Committee of the City of Rosenberg organized and hosted a blood drive on Wednesday, August 10, with a mobile service set-up in the City Hall parking lot. All City employees were invited and encouraged to participate.

Darrell Himly, Chairman of the Safety and Wellness Committee, reported a successful drive with 19 donations recorded during the three-hour period scheduled for the drive, exceeding the goal of 14.

Thank you, Rosenberg employees, for your life-giving donations.



City Budgetary Overview

The continuing economic downturn affecting the State of Texas and Nation has impacted budgets for local governments, including the City of Rosenberg. Over the last two (2) years, the Rosenberg City Council and City employees have worked together to reduce operating expenditures while striving to maintain City services. As a result of these efforts, even despite the economic downturn, the City of Rosenberg was able to reduce its property tax rate to 50 cents in 2010 and maintain this same rate for 2011.

As the City completes its Fiscal Year 2011 Budget on September 30, I am pleased to report that projected expenditures are within budget revenues. Although City revenues have remained generally flat, City departments have managed to keep operating expenditures within budget. One concession made to help achieve this was forgoing pay increases for all City employees.

City Council and staff are working to finalize a Fiscal Year 2012 (FY 2012) Budget that will begin on October 1. Council will consider final approval of this budget in September, and a copy is available on the City website for review (go to ci.rosenberg.tx.us and select "Departments", "Finance", and "Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Budget Schedule") or by contacting the City Secretary's office at (832) 595-3340.

The proposed FY 2012 Budget includes the following:

1. The City's tax rate will remain 50 cents for the third consecutive year.
2. This is a balanced budget without using the City's reserve funds.
3. There is no reduction in City services.
4. Despite increasing demands on City services such as Fire, Police, Streets, etc., there are no new personnel positions.
5. The City continues to address capital improvement projects such as the Street Overlay Program, Surface Water Conversion Project, Blume Road Improvement Project, Dry Creek Drainage Project, Seabourne Creek Drainage Project, new Fire Station No. 3, and repairs to City facilities.

Despite broad economic and financial challenges facing our State and Nation, the City of Rosenberg remains financially sound and has maintained a bond rating of A+ by Standard and Poor's. Although we have seen some businesses close, overall Rosenberg continues to experience new commercial and residential construction which adds to the City's tax base. The 2010 Census reflects a 25% increase in population since 2000, and the City's tax base has increased 100% (doubled) since 2004.

With leadership of City Council, and cooperative efforts of City employees, and our local residents and businesses, I believe that although Rosenberg's dynamic future may have been slowed by the economic downturn, overall, it still remains positive.

Jack S. Hamlett
City Manager

Pet Adoption – A Worthwhile Endeavor!

Rosenberg's Animal Shelter has many stories of happy adoptions, when it comes to pets. Another of those stories happened recently to "Squirt", an adorable puppy of Maltese and Yorkee mix. Animal Control Supervisor Jackie Jurasek reported that the poor animal was a mess when he was brought to the Rosenberg Shelter. Squirt was cleaned up, and then an irresistible photo was published on petfinder.com, where he was seen by his prospective master who fell in love with him at first sight. The new owner even took a day off from work during the week, leaving at 3:00 a.m. to travel from Lafayette, Louisiana, to claim her adopted puppy.



If you are looking for a furry friend, check out Rosenberg Animal Control's postings on petfinder.com. Thanks to the dedicated work of a valuable volunteer who manages the site, you may also search **Facebook** for "**Rosenberg AnimalShelter** (one word)", where there are beautiful photos of animals that are looking for a happy home. Maybe you prefer to see the animals face-to-face when making your choice; if so, the office is located at 1207 Blume Road, Rosenberg, and open Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Feel free to pay them a visit. Please call 832-595-3490 and make an appointment to make sure someone is on hand to assist you.

Photo courtesy: Jennifer Heylman

ROSENBERG DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Building Our Future

RDC Meeting Time Change

At its August 11, 2011 meeting, the RDC voted to change its regular meeting time from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Meetings will still be held the second Thursday of each month at the Rosenberg Civic Center (3825 Highway 36 South). For more information, visit the Rosenberg Development Corporation website, rosenbergcodev.com, or contact the Economic Development Department at 832-595-3330.

Interstate 69 - Driven By Texans

Texas is growing, and the future success of our state depends in large measure on advancing our transportation system to meet increased traffic demands. To this end, the citizens of Texas have an opportunity to direct the development of I-69 Texas into a modern transportation system capable of carrying goods to market, and families to their destinations, while respecting the communities and private property rights along the highway. For Texas, and specifically Fort Bend County, the importance of developing I-69 is anchored in the belief that communities can benefit from I-69 Texas through improved mobility and connectivity, greater highway safety, and economic benefits that come with convenient interstate access.



At the August meeting of the Rosenberg Development Corporation, representatives of the citizen committees appointed to provide input to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) gave an update on the status of Interstate 69.

The citizen representatives, Lane Ward and Jim Gonzalez, were appointed to represent Fort Bend County by Commissioners Court. They explained that TxDOT was seeking to meet the State's current and future transportation needs by improving U.S.

Highway 59 to the standard of an interstate highway. They stressed that TxDOT is seeking to do this within the current U.S. Highway 59 footprint, and that the State is focused on ensuring that the public is involved in the effort.

To that end, TxDOT has created a program called "Driven By Texans", through which the public may provide their input regarding the development of Interstate 69. You may provide feedback on the Driven by Texans website, txdot.gov/DrivenbyTexans, by inviting a committee member to speak to your local civic or business organization, or by calling (512)334-3841 and requesting a comment card to complete and return by mail.

For more information on the project, please visit txdot.gov/DrivenbyTexans, or call 512-334-3841. When viewing project maps online, please note that Rosenberg and Fort Bend County are located in Segment 3 of the I-69 Corridor.



National Fire Prevention Week October 9 - 15

Rosenberg City Council has proclaimed October 9-15 NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK in the City of Rosenberg, and urges everyone to protect their homes and families by taking the necessary fire prevention steps and supporting the public safety efforts of Rosenberg's fire and emergency service personnel.

This year, the national fire prevention campaign is all about making you, your family, and your community safer from fire. Did you know that on average, seven people die in home fires each day, and adults over 65 face the highest risk of fire death? A simple safety measure such as working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in half in reported home fires. Each of us can do many things to protect our living quarters and our families from the devastation of a fire.

The Rosenberg Fire Department reminds every resident of our community to be especially cautious during this time of extreme drought and increased risk of fire. More than 90 percent of all wildfires are started by careless acts of people and arsonists. Do not discard cigarettes from moving vehicles - cigarettes cause fires! If you cook outdoors, never leave the grill unattended, and extinguish the coals with water before disposing of them. IF YOU SEE SUSPICIOUS FIRE OR SMOKE, CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY!



*Test your knowledge and preparedness by taking the following FIRE PREVENTION QUIZ
courtesy of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA.org):*

- 1) What is the leading item first ignited in a cooking fire?
a. Clothing b. Food c. Paper Product d. Pot Holder
- 2) Where do most home fires start?
a. Basement b. Bedroom c. Kitchen d. Living/Family Room
- 3) Home fires peak between what time period?
a. Midnight – 3 a.m. b. 3 a.m. – 6 a.m. c. 5 p.m. – 8 p.m. d. 8 p.m. – 11 p.m.
- 4) All smoke alarms should be replaced every _____.
a. 15 years b. 10 years c. 5 years d. 1 year
- 5) For the best protection, all smoke alarms should be interconnected. Why?
a. So you don't need to change the batteries c. So you know they are working properly
b. So you only need to test one d. So that when one sounds, they all sound
- 6) If the smoke alarm sounds, you should do what?
a. Call the fire department and then leave your home c. Remove the battery
b. Get outside and then call the fire department d. Wait for the fire department to arrive
- 7) Smoke alarms should be installed _____.
a. On every level of the home, inside each bedroom and outside each sleeping area
b. On every level of the home, outside each sleeping area and in the kitchen
c. On the levels of the home where people sleep
d. On every level of the home and inside each bedroom
- 8) A home fire escape drill should be practiced at least how often?
a. Once a month b. Twice a month c. Once a year d. Twice a year
- 9) If you have home fire sprinklers in your home _____.
a. Only the sprinkler closest to the fire will go off
b. Only the sprinkler near the door(s) leading outside will go off
c. All sprinklers in the home will go off
d. All sprinklers in the home will go off and continue to release water until the fire department turns them off
- 10) Working smoke alarms, a home fire escape plan, and home fire sprinklers _____.
a. Will protect your family from fire c. Are important parts of a home fire safety plan
b. Are the focus for 2011 Fire Prevention Week d. All of the above

Answers: 1-b; 2-c; 3-c; 4-b; 5-d; 6-b; 7-a; 8-d; 9-a; 10-d

Remember the answers, and practice fire safety in your home!

Some materials reproduced from NFPA's Fire Prevention Week website, www.firepreventionweek.org. © 2011 NFPA.

Groundbreaking Blume Road Improvement Project

Members of Rosenberg City Council, past and present, joined area residents, Fort Bend County representatives, City staff, and representatives of Hurtado Construction and Kelly R. Kaluza and Associates Engineering on Tuesday, August 16, to officially break ground on Phase I of the Blume Road Improvement Project.



The City's contractor, Hurtado Construction, began work August 1 on Phase I of the Blume Road Improvement Project which includes widening and utility and drainage improvements from Spur 529 to Seabourne Creek, and the addition of a designated left turn lane on Spur 529 for traffic turning onto Blume Road. Phase I is expected to take at least a year to complete.

When Phase I is finished, this section of Blume Road will consist of three concrete lanes with a designated center turn lane, and curb and gutter. In addition, sidewalks will be installed down the east side of the road for the full length of the project, and on both sides of the road in the residential portions. Water, sanitary sewer and storm sewer improvements will also be completed as part of the project. Work will begin at Seabourne Creek and progress toward Spur 529.

During construction, property owners will have access to their properties; however, through-traffic may be limited. Temporary detours will occur, and signage will be set by the contractor. Drivers are advised to exercise caution in this area, to plan their travel accordingly, and to use established detour routes.

Residents may contact Citizen Relations at (832) 595-3301 with questions related to the improvement project.

A Salute to October's Employee Team of the Month

Rosenberg Police Department Employees Sergeant Brian Baker, and Communications Specialists Sandy Anderson, Christina Salinas, Brittany Tisdale, and Amanda Vosburg were recognized as the City of Rosenberg's Employees of the Month for October. These individuals collectively gave of themselves in a unique and selfless way that went beyond the routine workday experience in response to an incident.

In addition to their generosity and creativity in the difficult situation they were faced with, these individuals are to be congratulated for their diligence, compassion and professionalism above and beyond what is required or expected of them in their jobs. A big "thank you" to each of them for going out of their way with their generous acts of kindness!

The honorees are pictured above with Chief Robert Gracia, Lieutenant Colin Davidson and City Manager Jack Hamlett.



City Council Approves Fiscal Year 2012 Budget

The Rosenberg City Council approved the City's budget for Fiscal Year 2012 (FY2012) at the September 6 City Council Meeting. The FY2012 Budget will run from October 1, 2011, through September 30, 2012.

For the third consecutive year, the property tax rate will be \$0.50, which is below the effective tax rate. Although the current economic conditions have impacted the City's revenues, the FY2012 does not reflect a decrease in City services.

In addition to operating expenses, the FY2012 Budget allocates funding for several capital improvement projects to improve City services. These projects include construction of a new Animal Control Shelter and a new Fire Station, purchasing a pumper/ladder truck for the Fire Department, constructing a water line on Spur 529, and funding for the street resurfacing program.

A copy of the proposed budget is available for review on the City's website, ci.rosenberg.tx.us, by selecting "Departments" and then "Finance" and "FY 2011-2012 Budget Schedule". A copy of the final budget will be posted to the website as soon as possible.



Image Committee

October BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS

Landscape:

Chuck & Juliana Elmore
1002 Klare Avenue

Danny & Debbie Ewing
3509 Glenmeadow Drive

Allen & Janice Hahn
1407 Mimosa Lane

Ruben & Susana Sanchez
1600 7th Street

Larry & Rachael Thames
1911 West Street



Littering Trashes our Community!

To beat litter, you've
got to know it.

With over 24 million
people living in our great
state, there's always
more work to be done.

According to
dontmesswithtexas.org:

- Half of Texans admit to littering!
- Approximately 827 million pieces of litter accumulate on Texas roadways each year.
- More than one-fourth (29%) of all litter items are food-related — from fast food items to candy wrappers.
- If every litterer in Texas picked up just six pieces of trash every month, our highways would be completely litter-free.

*Don't just talk about litter,
lend a hand by doing your
part to keep our community
clean and litter free!*



Social Media makes Connections for Furry Friends

In addition to connecting friends, Rosenberg's Animal Control is successful at leveraging the power of social media to connect people with furry friends!

Recently, two amazing young people were so inspired with the cause of the local Animal Shelter presented on Facebook that they made a plan to offer a children's art class, with the proceeds being donated to Rosenberg's animal adoption program. They only kept enough to cover supplies for the class, and the remainder was donated to Animal Control. The completed art projects will be auctioned off later in the year as part of another fund raiser.

During the regular meeting of City Council on August 16, the two young people were presented a certificate of appreciation for their participation, which was totally unsolicited. Apparently, the enthusiasm of our Animal Control Officers, Jackie Jurasek and Renee McAnally, is contagious!

In another testament to the power of social media, a family from San Antonio became enamored with a couple of tiny kittens when they saw their photos on **Petfinder.com**. The family made the trip to Rosenberg to pick up their adopted balls of fluff. It is always heartwarming when pets can be awarded to loving families who will care for them and give them good homes.



Thanks again to the volunteers who donate their time to maintain these web connections for Animal Control, dedicating hours to post photos of the animals that are available for adoption, helping to ensure many more happy stories in the future!

If you're interested in adopting the newest member of your family from Rosenberg Animal Control, be sure to check out postings on **petfinder.com** and **Facebook** under "**Rosenberg AnimalShelter**", or feel free to pay the facility a visit. Please call (832) 595-3490 and make an appointment to be sure someone's on hand to assist you!

Hunting for Homes Mega Adoption Event

Speaking of pet adoptions - the Animal Service agencies of Fort Bend County will hold a "Hunting for Homes" Mega Adoption Event planned for Saturday, November 5, 2011, at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The purpose of the event is twofold - to find homes for available cats and dogs, and to show the positive and rewarding aspects of adopting a shelter animal.

Adoptable cats and dogs from the Animal Service Agencies of Sugar Land, Rosenberg, Missouri City, Stafford and Fort Bend County will be available for adoption. The \$30 adoption fee for all animals includes a wellness check, spaying or neutering, initial vaccinations, and microchipping. Senior citizens can adopt a pet for a discounted \$15.



To help make the event successful, the agencies are asking for both monetary and supply donations. Supplies needed include large wire pet crates (at least 36 x 24 inches), flea medication (Frontline or Advantage brands), and cleaning supplies. Monetary donations can be made by sending a check to Fort Bend County Animal Services, 1210 Blume Road, Rosenberg, TX 77471. Please make checks payable to Fort Bend County, and include "Hunting for Homes" in the memo line. Monetary donations will be used to pay for the microchipping and spaying or neutering of all pets.

For more information please call Fort Bend County Animal Services at 281-633-7590.

ROSENBERG DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Building Our Future

Business Appreciation Reception

The Rosenberg Development Corporation, with the assistance and expertise of the Central Fort Bend Chamber Alliance, hosted its annual Business Appreciation Reception on Thursday, August 25, at the Rosenberg Civic Center. The annual event is designed to honor local businesses while providing resources to help them grow and expand. It provided business owners with information and resources to grow their business, along with food from Rosenberg restaurants, and ample networking time.

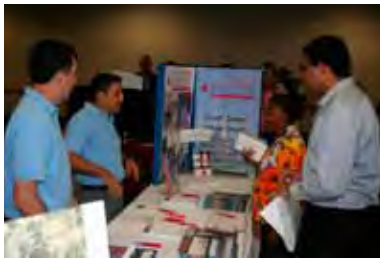


Over 200 people packed the Rosenberg Civic Center for the event in search of information, networking opportunities and some of the finest food the city has to offer.

"The RDC was again excited to partner with the Chamber to help highlight and grow our local businesses through the annual Business Appreciation Reception," said Matt Fielder, Rosenberg Economic Development Director. "This was an ideal way for the Rosenberg Development Corporation and the Central Fort Bend Chamber Alliance to join forces and promote economic development in Rosenberg."

A big "thank you" goes out to the staff of the Central Fort Bend Chamber Alliance for their assistance in making this year's reception a resounding success!

Representatives of the U of H Small Business Development Center visit with reception attendees.



Schulze's Bar-B-Que employees visit with Liz Moreno of the Fort Bend County Women's Center



Former Rosenberg Mayor Joe Gurecky visits with Janice Knight, LEAF, and Charles Kalkomey, Jones & Carter.



RDC Board Members - Councilor Tom Suter, Allen Scopel, and Councilor Dwayne Grigar

Photos courtesy Central Fort Bend Chamber Alliance.

832.595.3330 • www.rosenbergcodev.com



The Rosenberg INSIDER is
an official publication of
the City of Rosenberg.

www.ci.rosenberg.tx.us

Rosenberg INSIDER

November 2011

Get Ready for Fun-Filled Rosenberg Holiday Celebrations!



The City is excited to announce its two upcoming holiday events, the City Hall Gazebo Lighting, and Christmas in Rosenberg, scheduled for Wednesday, November 30, and Saturday, December 3, 2011, respectively.

This year's Gazebo Lighting will be held Wednesday, November 30, at City Hall, 2110 4th Street, starting at 6:30 p.m. The public is encouraged to share in the festivities and help officially kick off Rosenberg's holiday season with Mayor

Vincent M. Morales, Jr., Rosenberg First United Methodist Church Children's Choir, and honored guests for the evening, Santa and Mrs. Claus!

Girl Scout Troop 3503 will provide arts and crafts activities for the children in attendance, and parents are encouraged to bring their camera for photographs of their children with Santa and Mrs. Claus. For more information on the City Hall Gazebo Lighting, visit the City's website and search for "Gazebo Lighting", or contact Lydia Acosta, Recreation Programs Coordinator at (832)-595-3520.

Christmas in Rosenberg will be held Saturday, December 3, in historic downtown, from 3 to 9 p.m. The fun and festive evening event includes ample holiday entertainment from local community, school and church groups; visits and photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus; gift, craft, and food vendors; a children's carnival hosted by the Rosenberg Railroad Museum; and Rosenberg's wonderful downtown merchants, eateries and attractions. There will also be a drop-off for Toys for Tots Fort Bend donations.



Come downtown for a free delightful evening jam-packed with the sights and sounds of the holidays!

Vendor applications and event sponsorships are currently being accepted for Christmas in Rosenberg. For further information, please visit the City's website and search for "Christmas in Rosenberg", or contact Camille Prat, Marketing/Tourism Assistant, at (832) 595-3525.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Gazebo Lighting - City Hall - Wed., Nov. 30 - 6:30 p.m.
Christmas in Rosenberg - Downtown - Sat., Dec. 3 - 3 to 9 p.m.

Holiday Closure and Garbage Collection Schedule Inside!

Annexation

The purpose of municipal government is to provide services that protect health and safety, improve quality of life, and offer economic opportunities to residents. City taxpayers pay for a wide array of services that benefit the greater region and State. Texas cities, unlike the cities of other states, don't receive state financial assistance or state revenue-sharing. To offset this, the State of Texas allows cities to annex adjacent areas into the city and the system through which services and facilities from which they benefit are financed. The broad power of Texas cities to annex has permitted cities in Texas to share in the benefits of growth in the surrounding areas.

The City of Rosenberg held two required public hearings on annexation on October 18 and 25. These public hearings are necessary steps in the City's proposed annexation of six (6) areas currently in the City's extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ). City Council will deliberate the annexation of each of the six (6) proposed areas at the November 15 Regular City Council Meeting scheduled for 7:00 p.m. at Rosenberg City Hall, 2110 4th Street.

Annexation is the process by which cities extend their municipal services, regulations, voting privileges, and taxing authority to new territory. It is also a means of ensuring that residents and businesses outside a city's corporate limits who benefit from access to the city's facilities and services share the tax burden associated with constructing and maintaining those facilities and services. Cities annex territory to provide areas with municipal services beyond those available in rural areas; to create efficiencies in service delivery, particularly for public safety services; to apply City development standards; to protect and expand the tax base; and to maximize the return on a city's investment in infrastructure and business incentives. Rosenberg staff and City Council evaluate potential areas for annexation.

In total, the six (6) proposed areas for annexation comprise 1015.9 acres (this includes roadways and right-of-ways), or approximately 7% of the City's current land area (14,272 acres). The City of Rosenberg's main purpose in proposing annexation of the areas is to expand the City's tax base to cover the costs of services provided to these areas, specifically, the cost of fire protection – a service from which inhabitants in unincorporated areas currently benefit, but which City residents currently substantially subsidize.

The City of Rosenberg evaluated the potential long-term impact of providing fire services through the Rosenberg Fire Department to unincorporated areas. Although Fort Bend County has provided some funding as partial reimbursement for these services in the past, the amount is nowhere near adequate to cover the actual costs of providing them. Consequently, existing Rosenberg taxpayers are subsidizing the costs of fire protection in unincorporated areas by at least \$200,000 per year. Because of this and the anticipated rising costs of fire protection coverage in the future due to continued growth, Rosenberg City Council voted previously to terminate fire services provided by the City of Rosenberg on September 30, 2013, for any unincorporated areas that do not have a Fire Services Agreement.

The new fire station is part of the City's plans to reduce the Insurance Services Office (ISO) ratings, which will result in lower fire insurance premiums for property owners. With Rosenberg's growth in population and commercial developments, a third fire station is necessary to maintain acceptable response times within the City. The new fire station will be located south of US 59 in the Bryan Road/Spacek Road area. It will provide fire protection and first responder services to City residents and the four (4) Municipal Utility Districts that have Fire Service Agreements with the City of Rosenberg. The areas outside Rosenberg's City Limits can benefit from the location of the new fire station and should contribute their fair share of the costs for Fire Station No. 3. Otherwise, the financial burden will be placed on the City's taxpayers.

Should the proposed six (6) areas be annexed, based on 2010 property valuations, the addition of these tracts would add approximately \$34 million in taxable value to the City tax rolls. At the current City of Rosenberg tax rate of \$0.50 per \$100 valuation, this amount would generate approximately \$171,000 per year in additional property tax revenue for the City. A home with an assessed value of \$100,000 would pay \$500 in City of Rosenberg taxes, which would be utilized to help offset the costs of providing essential services such as Fire and Police protection, street and road maintenance, code enforcement and animal control to the newly-annexed areas.

In addition to improved fire protection, bringing annexed areas into the City allows Rosenberg to plan for infrastructure needs in accordance with its overall Capital Improvement Plan and Groundwater Reduction Plan. Along with the construction of Fire Station No. 3, plans currently include improvements to Bryan Road, improvements to Spacek Road, a new water line along FM 2977, a water storage tank on FM 2977, a new water line along Spur 529, and a new water well and storage tank at the intersection of Spur 529 and Highway 59. These improvements will not only serve Rosenberg citizens, but will also provide benefits to areas outside Rosenberg City Limits. Orderly annexation enables the City of Rosenberg to expand its property tax base and to reduce the future tax burden on existing citizens.

For more information on annexation in the City of Rosenberg, please visit the City's website, ci.rosenberg.tx.us, and select "Departments" and then "Planning" and "Annexation Information and Hearing Schedule".

Upcoming City of Rosenberg Holiday Closures

All municipal facilities will be closed the following dates:



Thanksgiving

Thursday, November 24*
& Friday, November 25



Christmas

Monday, December 26



New Year's Day

Monday, January 2, 2012

****Garbage will NOT be collected Thanksgiving Day, but will instead be picked up on the next regular garbage day, Monday, November 28. The Fri., Nov. 29 schedule will not be affected.***

Citizens may contact Citizen Relations at 832-595-3301 with questions.

Have a safe and happy holiday season!

Utility Payments Courtesy Drop Box

The City has changed procedures for accepting payments on the day of disconnection of utility services for non-payment.

To avoid payments being placed in the courtesy drop-box at City Hall on the day that customers have been, or are scheduled to be disconnected, the courtesy drop-box will be closed from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The drop-box will reopen at 5:00 p.m.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. Payments may be made in person from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Monday through Thursday, or 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Fridays.

Please contact Customer Service at (832) 595-3400 with any questions.



Image Committee

November BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS

Landscape:

Tony Becerra
Lupe & Kevin New
503 2nd Street

Brad & Diana Surovik
2020 Ripple Creek Drive

Juan & Maria Torres
4314 Debbie Court

Leon & Brenda Watson
5622 Walnut Glen Lane

Richard & Annie Zak
2221 Ripple Creek Drive

Renovation:

Samuel & Carmina Albarran
2414 Freeway Manor Drive

Civic Center HVAC System Replacement

The Rosenberg Civic Center will be closed for meetings and events from November 1 until February 2012, while the facility's air conditioning system is replaced.

Payment, park pavilion and field reservations, and Civic Center bookings will still be accepted on-site during regular business hours, Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

We look forward to serving all of our clients again in February 2012 with a new and improved Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning system!

For further information, or to check venue or park availability, please contact the Civic Center at (832) 595-3520.

City Announces Pilot Programs for Curbside Recycling and Automated Trash Pick Up

The City of Rosenberg will be working with Republic Services, the City's solid waste contractor, to implement pilot programs for curbside recycling and automated trash pickup services in particular Rosenberg neighborhoods in the coming months. City Council approved the pilot programs and areas at their October 18 Regular Meeting, and affected residents will be notified regarding the implementation of the programs. The pilot programs will be implemented at no added cost to residents or the City.



Areas selected to pilot a **CURBSIDE RECYCLING PROGRAM** include the *Brazos Park area*, the *Oaks of Rosenberg*, and *Cambridge Village*. Residents in the selected areas will receive a 95-gallon roll-out recycling cart, to be delivered the week of November 28. Curbside recycling pickup services will begin the week of December 5, on residents' first regular pickup day of the week. Other solid waste services, including regular solid waste and bulky item pickup, will remain the same. Bulky items will continue to be picked up once a week on the second collection day, and tree trimmings and green yard waste will be picked up on both pickup days. The pilot program will continue through February of 2012, and carts will be retrieved the first week of March.

Areas selected to participate in the pilot **AUTOMATED SOLID WASTE COLLECTION PROGRAM** include *Grunwald Heights*, the *Lane Drive area*, and *Cambridge Village*. Residents in the selected areas will receive a 95-gallon roll-out trash cart, to be delivered the week of November 28. Automated solid waste pickup services will begin the week of December 5, on residents' regular pickup days. Other solid waste services, including bulky item pickup, will remain the same. Bulky items will continue to be picked up once a week on the second collection day, and tree trimmings and green yard waste will be picked up on both days. The pilot program will continue through February of 2012, and carts will be retrieved the first week of March.



Informational meetings for residents are scheduled for early November. Republic Services will present an overview of the programs and answer questions from residents. Staff will solicit feedback regarding participation rates and customer satisfaction through a survey at the end of the program.

For further information on the pilot programs, please contact Barbara Vick at (832) 595-3323 or search the City's website, ci.rosenberg.tx.us, for "Solid Waste Pilot Programs".

Subsidence Fee to Increase for Water Customers January 1, 2012

The Fort Bend Subsidence District (District) was established by the Texas Legislature in 1989 "to provide for the regulation of the withdrawal of groundwater within the District to prevent subsidence" in Fort Bend County. Currently, cities in Fort Bend County primarily utilize groundwater wells as their water supplies. In order to prevent ground subsidence and protect groundwater sources, the District has mandated that cities reduce pumpage from groundwater wells through partial conversion to alternate water supplies.

Under these mandates, the Cities of Rosenberg and Richmond are required to reduce groundwater pumpage 30% by 2015. To help achieve this, both cities have purchased water supply contracts with the Brazos River Authority (BRA), and are working together as partners on a surface water project.

In order to meet the increasing costs of the surface water project and annual water supply contract, the City must increase its water revenues. The City's Subsidence Fee was established in 2007 to provide funding for capital improvements that are required for compliance with the mandatory groundwater reduction from the Fort Bend Subsidence District. The Subsidence Fee is added to customers' monthly water bills. Revenues generated by the Subsidence Fee are held in a separate fund to be used only toward costs related to compliance with Fort Bend Subsidence District mandates. The additional funds will enable the City of Rosenberg to continue its efforts towards compliance with the mandatory 2015 deadline.

The Rosenberg Subsidence Fee will increase annually until 2015, as the City elected to phase in rate increases over a multiple-year period. The current Subsidence Fee of 60¢ per 1,000 gallons of water consumption went into effect on March 01, 2011. **The new Subsidence Fee will be 75¢ per 1,000 gallons starting January 1, 2012.** By 2015, the subsidence fee is projected to be at least \$1.20. Other cities in Fort Bend County are facing similar mandates and rate increases.

For further information on the Fort Bend Subsidence District, please visit fbsubsidence.org.

For questions related to the above article, please contact the City Manager's Office at 832-595-3310.

ROSENBERG DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Building Our Future

Houston-Galveston Area Council Subregional Plan

During its August 2011 meeting, the Rosenberg Development Corporation (RDC) voted to participate in the Houston-Galveston Area Council's (H-GAC) Subregional Planning Initiative for Fort Bend County. H-GAC is the Gulf Coast region's association of governments through which the majority of state and federal funds are distributed.

As Fort Bend County continues to be one of the faster growing areas in the state, it becomes increasingly important for cities, counties and the state to collaborate to meet the challenges presented by rapid growth and to reduce the likelihood of redundant services between jurisdictions. The subregional plan goals include improving access between homes, jobs and services while also improving transit plans. The H-GAC Subregional Plan is a collaborative effort between the cities of Arcola, Meadows Place, Missouri City, Richmond, Rosenberg (via the RDC), Stafford and Sugar Land.

The subregional plan includes several goals which will assist Rosenberg in operational and economic development initiatives by:

- Identifying opportunities to integrate existing and planned transportation systems across jurisdictional boundaries;
- Creating better transportation system outcomes in the region;
- Identifying and prioritizing projects that require state or federal funding (e.g. transit projects on TxDOT roadways such as U.S. 59); and
- Illustrating the City's commitment to strategic planning when applying for state projects and grants.



Rosenberg's economy is based largely on manufacturing and logistics, and it is crucial for the City of Rosenberg and the RDC to do everything possible to plan for the increasingly greater stresses our transit corridors will undergo as growth continues. The subregional plan will provide Rosenberg a blueprint for transit development through 2040 that will help ensure transportation capacity is able to accommodate the demand that leads to a prosperous and healthy local and regional economy.

For more information, visit the H-GAC's Subregional Planning Initiative website, subregional.h-gac.com, or contact Rosenberg Economic Development (information below).



832.595.3330 • www.rosenbergcodev.com



Holiday Safety Tips for Around the House

The Christmas season is a joyous time and filled with celebrations. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission offers some wise suggestions for keeping your holidays full of joys and celebrations and avoiding needless accidents.

General Rules for Holiday Safety

- Keep matches, lighters, and candles out of the reach of children.
- Avoid smoking near flammable decorations.
- Burning evergreens in the fireplace can also be hazardous - when dry, greens burn like tinder and flames can flare out of control and send sparks flying into a room or up the chimney to ignite creosote deposits.
- Look for and eliminate potential danger spots near candles, fireplaces, trees, and/or electrical connections.
- Plan for safety - there is no substitute for common sense. Make an emergency plan to use if a fire breaks out anywhere in the home. See that each family member knows what to do and PRACTICE the plan.

Trees

- If you buy an artificial tree, look for a statement specifying it is fire resistant.
- A fresh tree will stay green longer and be less of a fire hazard than a dry one. To check for freshness, remember: A fresh tree is green and fresh needles are hard to pull from branches - when the trunk of a tree is bounced on the ground, a shower of falling needles means that the tree is too dry. Fresh needles do not break when bent between your fingers. The trunk butt of a fresh tree is sticky with resin.
- Place tree away from fireplaces, radiators and other heat sources. Heated rooms dry trees out rapidly, creating fire hazards.
- Cut off about two inches of the trunk to expose fresh wood for better water absorption. Set tree trunk in the base of a sturdy, water-holding stand with wide spread feet. Keep the stand filled with water while the tree is indoors.
- Place the tree out of the way of traffic and do not block doorways. If the tree is large, use thin guy-wires to secure it to walls or ceiling.

Lights

- Indoor or outside, use only lights that have been tested for safety, identified by the label from an independent testing laboratory.
- Check each set of lights, new or old, for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections. Discard damaged sets or repair them before using.
- Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, house, walls or other firm support to protect from wind damage.
- Use no more than three standard-size sets of lights per single extension cord.
- Turn off all lights on trees and other decorations when you go to bed or leave the house. Lights could short and start a fire.
- Never use electric lights on a metallic tree. The tree can become charged with electricity from faulty lights, and anyone touching a branch could be electrocuted!
- Keep "bubbling" lights away from children. Their bright colors and bubbling movement can tempt curious children to break candle-shaped glass, which can cut, and attempt to drink liquid that contains a hazardous chemical.

Trimnings

- Use only non-combustible or flame-resistant materials.
- In homes with small children, take special care to avoid decorations that are sharp or breakable. Keep trimmings with small removable parts out of the reach of children - pieces could be swallowed or inhaled. Avoid trimmings that resemble candy or food - a child could eat them!
- Artificial snow sprays can irritate lungs if inhaled. To avoid injury, read container labels and follow directions.

Candles

- Never use lighted candles on a tree or near other evergreens.
- Always use non-flammable holders.
- Keep candles away from other decorations and wrapping paper.
- Place candles where they cannot be knocked down or blown over.

Source: Consumer Product Safety Commission - <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/pubs/holpubs.html>

Continued on next page...



Holiday Safety Tips Continued...

Fires

- Before lighting any fire, remove all greens, boughs, papers, and other decorations from fireplace area. Check to see that flue is open.
- Keep a screen before the fireplace all the time a fire is burning.
- Do not burn papers in the fireplace. A flash fire may result as wrappings ignite suddenly and burn intensely.
- Never place trimmings near open flames or electrical connections.

Careful attention to a few safety details can often prevent accidents. Be safe, and have a joy-filled holiday celebration!

"Hunting for Homes" Mega Adoption Event a Mega Success!



The Animal Service agencies of Fort Bend County held their "Hunting for Homes" Mega Adoption Event on November 5. Half an hour before the event officially began, more than 150 hopeful adults and children were gathered outside the doors, eager to find their new pet.

Children squealed with delight as they flitted from one pen to the next. All of the dogs were scooped up almost immediately. All of the Rosenberg Animal Control's dogs were adopted within the first three hours, with one kitten remaining at the end of the event to be returned to the shelter; however, he did find a home within a week. A dozen other cats were taken back to their respective shelters and are up for adoption.

The event was a huge undertaking for the smaller shelters such as Rosenberg's, but all proved that Fort Bend County can work together with astounding results. A grand total of 62 dogs and 28 cats were adopted!

Thank you to all who helped make this event a mega success – especially those such as the happy family pictured here: Tiffany Ybarra and her two daughters Marisa and Katelyn, along with their newly-adopted dog, Missy.

Hats Off to December's Employee Team of the Month

Installation of a new computer system/software solution has been completed for the electronic operations of the Rosenberg Police Department. The project involved installation of the software as well as extensive training for its functions in each division.

PC/LAN Specialist Keith Leach, Police Sergeant Richard Hooper and Communications Specialist Amy Shedd were recognized as Employees of the Month for their outstanding work on this project.



Keith Leach was the point man for the conversion of all the computer system and software and the final operation of the system. It was pointed out that Keith worked long hours to ensure the conversion went smoothly, and his hard work was instrumental in the successful and smooth transition. He was persistent in his endeavor to make sure the task was accomplished within the given time frame.

Communications Specialist Amy Shedd was tasked with training and software configuration. Shedd's commitment went over and above expectations as targeted training was completed with near 100% success. Shedd personally entered massive amounts of data and tested entries to insure proper operations, with extreme attention to detail and a strong commitment to the success of the project.

Police Sergeant Richard Hooper was recognized for his commitment to the project and his planning and oversight to see the project through to its completion.

Thank you all for your teamwork in the successful completion of this enormous project!

Pictured above are: Chief Robert Gracia, Sgt. Richard Hooper, City Manager Jack Hamlett, Amy Shedd, Lt. Colin Davidson, Keith Leach, and Information Services Manager Larry Gobar.

Upcoming City of Rosenberg Holiday Closures

All municipal facilities will be closed the following dates:



Christmas (Observed)
Monday, December 26



New Year's Day (Observed)
Monday, January 2, 2012

Garbage collection will NOT be affected by the Christmas or New Year's holidays, and will be collected as regularly scheduled.

Citizens may contact Citizen Relations at 832-595-3301 with questions.

Have a safe and happy holiday season!

INSIDER Newsletter Comments/Ideas/ Suggestions?

The monthly INSIDER Newsletter is a product of the City's Communications Department.

We strive to be timely with the information presented, however print pieces have a somewhat limited and brief shelf life.

For the most up-to-date City information, the newest newsletter, and newsletter archives, please visit the City's website at www.ci.rosenberg.tx.us

Please send any comments/ideas or suggestions related to the newsletter to: angelaf@ci.rosenberg.tx.us

Thanks for reading!



Image Committee

December BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS

Landscape:

Bill and Kathy Newberry
4901 E. Columbarry Drive

"3101 Place" Apartments
3101 Vista Drive

Grant and Norma Spano
3825 Avenue O

The Rosenberg Police Department is preparing for the holiday season by increasing their presence in targeted areas of our community to deter criminals enticed by increased numbers of shoppers and visitors.

Through partnerships with community members, businesses and organizations, and detailed crime-analysis, the RPD strives diligently to lower crime and increase public safety every day of the year.

HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS *Don't be a Victim!*

- Always be aware of your surroundings
- Keep cash to a minimum – use credit cards
- Keep records of credit card numbers and report theft or compromise immediately
- Don't wear expensive jewelry shopping
- Don't be distracted by talking on a phone or listening to headphones
- Have vehicle keys in hand and alarm button ready BEFORE you leave the store
- Continuously scan area while loading children & packages
- Look for & report suspicious people or vehicles
- ALWAYS lock your vehicle
- Don't leave valuables in sight
- If approached by a subject with a weapon – don't argue or resist; your life is worth more than anything... however, if you are being forced into a vehicle with the suspect, FIGHT BACK!

Rosenberg Boundaries and Tax Base Grow With Annexations

In November, the Rosenberg City Council approved annexation of six (6) areas. The combined annexations will add approximately 1,016 acres to the City of Rosenberg's boundaries.

Texas cities are authorized to use annexation in order to plan for orderly growth and development with Rosenberg's extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ). This allows Rosenberg to plan for its long-term infrastructure needs such as streets, drainage, water, wastewater, and City services such as fire protection. Secondly, annexation expands Rosenberg's tax base and property tax revenues which helps spread the costs for the long-term infrastructure improvements. The result is to help reduce the property tax burden on Rosenberg's existing citizens. As future development occurs within the annexation areas, the City of Rosenberg will receive the increased tax revenues from the new developments.

The new areas include:

- Triangular area between Spur 529 and US Highway 59.
- South side of Bryan Road across from Oaks of Rosenberg Subdivision.
- Between Spacek Road and FM 2977.
- City's Wastewater Treatment Plant No. 1A located on Avenue A.
- Property for the future Dry Creek Regional Drainage facilities located along Ricefield Road.

Rosenberg's five (5) year Capital Improvements Plan includes projects that will provide benefits to our current citizens and those businesses or residents in the annexation areas. These include a new Fire Station No. 3, reconstruction of Bryan Road, Spur 529 Water Line Extension, FM 2977 Water Line Extension, and the Dry Creek Regional Drainage facilities.

Rosenberg Police Department Names New Lieutenant



The Rosenberg Police Department welcomed the newest member of their leadership staff from the Department's ranks, Detective Tracie Dunn. On October 21, Dunn was promoted to Lieutenant and assigned as Division Commander of the Criminal Investigations Division (CID).

Lt. Dunn is a graduate of the University of Texas, and holds a Masters degree in Administration-Organizational Development from the University of the Incarnate Word. She has spent the last ten (10) years in law enforcement with the San Antonio and Rosenberg Police Departments, and had been assigned to the CID since February of 2011, where her hard work and experience have made a significant impact on the division.

Lt. Dunn stated, *"I am honored to serve as the Lieutenant of the Criminal Investigations Division at the Rosenberg Police Department. I look forward to serving the community by striving for excellence within the Division. I ensure the success of the Division through a great team of highly qualified detectives. The division has made it a mission to serve the community through partnerships, professionalism and continued development."*

Lieutenant Tracie Dunn is pictured above (center) with Criminal Investigations Division staff including (left to right) Investigators Jonathan White, Kevin Monfort, Randy Weishiemer, and Randall Leonhardt.

ROSENBERG DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Building Our Future

Avenue H Business Assistance Grant Program Presents First Check

Improvement Project at Rosenberg Shamrock, 4508 Avenue H, Complete

Representatives from the City of Rosenberg Avenue H Business Assistance Grant Committee presented the first check for a completed project to the Shamrock gas station at 4508 Avenue H on Friday, November 4, 2011. The \$2,500 grant was awarded to Mr. Aziz Dharani and Mr. Amirali Dharani, owners of the store, and was a match for the owners' \$6,495 project, which included the installation and painting of new siding.

The Avenue H Business Assistance Grant Program is administered by a committee appointed by Rosenberg City Council. Grants are available to qualifying businesses located on Avenue H and are intended to promote the renovation and redevelopment of small businesses along the 90A corridor. Grants are awarded on a matching 1:1 basis, in amounts up to \$2,500 for eligible projects including: storefronts façade improvements; new sign construction; renovation or removal of existing signs; landscaping, lighting, sidewalks, parking lots, and driveway improvements, and demolition of existing signs and structures.

Business owners interested in applying for Avenue H business assistance grants are asked to review the program guidelines and criteria and submit an application detailing the scope of work, budget, and project timeline. Funding eligibility is determined by the committee which meets as required to review applications. Business Assistance Grant Program guidelines and applications are available from the Economic Development website. For more information on the program, please contact the Economic Development Department at (832) 595-3330.



Pictured above, left to right, are: Janie Warstler, Committee member; Councilor Juan Salazar, Committee member; Aziz Dharani; Matt Fielder, Economic Development Director; Amirali Dharani; Jeff Trinker, Economic Development; Nancy Talasek, Committee Member; and Rachel Steele, Committee Member.



Employees Honored with Willie Daniel McQueen, Jr. Employee of the Year Awards

Ten City employees were honored with the Willie Daniel McQueen, Jr. Employee of the Year Award at the Annual Employee Awards Luncheon held Wednesday, December 9, 2009, at the Civic Center. Willie McQueen, Jr. was a Sergeant with the City of Rosenberg Police Department, and the award has been given annually in his memory since his passing in 2005. Members of the McQueen family were honored guests at the luncheon and presented each employee with their award.



The 2009 recipients were nominated for the award by their peers, and were selected based on their exceptional accomplishments and "above and beyond" attitudes in the performance of their job duties. The recipients, pictured above with the McQueen family, Mayor Joe Gurecky, City Manager Jack Hamlett, and Assistant Police Chief Dallis Warren, included: **Hipolito Villarreal**, Utilities Foreman; **Jacky Bumpers**, Police Detective; **John Maresh**, Utilities Director; **Jackie Jurasek**, Animal Control Supervisor; **Fernando Garcia**, Building Official; **Michael Garcia**, Rental Inspector/Investigator; **Kevin Raines**, Police Detective; **Richard Hooper**, Police Sergeant; **Douglas Gorka**, Heavy Equipment Operator; and **Matthew Fielder**, Economic Development Director.



8th Annual FIShtastic Tournament

Saturday, February 6, 2010

8:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Seabourne Creek Park

FREE

Boys & Girls Ages 4 to 14 Welcome

Three Divisions - LOTS of PRIZES!

Contact 832-595-3520 for more information.

January Image Awards

LANDSCAPE:

**Downtown Merchants
of Rosenberg**
*Historic Downtown
District*

**Eugene King and
Sandra Townsend**
706 Habitat Lane

National Oilwell Varco
3782 Reese Road

Laura Nieves
801 Damon Street

RENOVATION:

Holden Roofing
2128 1st Street

**Guanajuato Mexican
Restaurant**
3907 Avenue H

Meeting & Activities Calendar

View posted agendas at www.ci.rosenberg.tx.us
Questions? Please call 832-595-3301

Tuesday, January 5
Thursday, January 14
Monday, January 18
Tuesday, January 19
Wednesday, January 20
Tuesday, January 26
Wednesday, January 27

City Council Meeting, 2110 4th Street, 7:00 PM
Rosenberg Development Corporation Meeting, Civic Center, 12:00 PM
Image Committee Meeting, Civic Center, 12:00 PM
City Council Meeting, 2110 4th Street, 7:00 PM
Parks and Recreation Board Meeting, Civic Center, 5:30 PM
Special City Council Meeting, 2110 4th Street, 6:00 PM
Planning Commission Meeting, 2110 4th Street, 6:00 PM

SAVE THESE DATES!

Saturday, February 6
Thursday, February 11
Thursday, February 18
Saturday, February 20
Thursday, February 25
March 2010
Saturday, March 27
Thursday, April 1, 2010
April 2010

FIShtastic Tournament, Seabourne Creek Park, 8:00 to 11:30 AM
Rosenberg Transit and Pedestrian Study Public Meeting, 2110 4th Street, 7:00 PM
Rosenberg Volunteer Appreciation Banquet, Civic Center, 6:30 PM
iHoops Challenge, Community Park, 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM
RDC Business Appreciation Reception, Civic Center, 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM
US Census forms mailed or delivered to households
Easter Egg Hunt, Seabourne Creek Park, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM
National Census Day - make sure your forms have been completed and returned!
Race on the Brazos, Canoe & Kayak Race, Community Park - Watch for details!

ROSENBERG DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Building Our Future

ROSENBERG TRANSIT AND PEDESTRIAN STUDY

Rosenberg residents represent the largest community of transit service users in Fort Bend County. The County has provided various transit services to Rosenberg residents for several years through the Fort Bend County Transportation Department.

As communities grow and change, so do their citizens' transit needs. The Rosenberg Development Corporation (RDC) is undertaking a study to determine if the transit needs of the community are being met, and whether any transit services should be expanded or modified. Traffic Engineers, Inc. is conducting the transit and pedestrian study on behalf of the RDC in conjunction with the City of Rosenberg and Fort Bend County.

The study's purpose is to evaluate the potential role of transit in meeting the transportation needs of the residents of Rosenberg, both now and in the future. Additionally, the study will evaluate the needs of and potential improvements for pedestrians and bicyclists in the community.

Community participation is a critical element necessary to ensure the success of the study. The RDC will host two public meetings to obtain public input on these important transit issues. A public survey will also be distributed to solicit input. Below is information regarding the first of two public meetings for the project:

Transit and Pedestrian Study Public Meeting
Thursday, February 11, 2010
7:00 PM
Rosenberg City Hall Council Chamber
2110 4th Street

*For more information on the Rosenberg Transit and Pedestrian Study,
please visit: www.RosenbergEcoDev.com.*

The Rosenberg INSIDER is
an official publication of
the City of Rosenberg.

www.ci.rosenberg.tx.us

February 2010

Rosenberg
INSIDER

"Take 10" and Help Rosenberg Get What it Needs for the Next 10 Years

In March 2010, more than 130 million addresses will receive a 2010 Census form by mail or hand delivery. The 2010 Census will document the changes in our nation since the last decennial census in 2000, and tell us how we've evolved as a country. Because census data affect how more than \$400 billion in federal funding is distributed to tribal, state and local governments, the census also will frame the future of our country and our community for the next 10 years.



IT'S IN OUR HANDS

During Census 2000, the mail participation rate was 72 percent as of the April 2000 cut-off. About \$85 million is saved for every one percent increase in mail participation. For these and many other reasons, we must work to encourage everyone's participation in the census.

Here's what you should know about the 2010 Census:

It's easy. One of the shortest census forms in history, the 2010 Census form asks 10 questions and takes about 10 minutes to complete. The individual in whose name the housing unit is rented or owned should complete the form on behalf of every person living there, both relatives and nonrelatives.

It's important. Census data are used to reapportion seats in Congress and ensure proper district representation in state and local governments. Information from the census helps determine locations for child-care and senior centers, new roads, hospitals, schools and community centers.

It's safe. By law, the U.S. Census Bureau cannot share respondents' answers with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities. All Census Bureau employees take an oath of nondisclosure and are sworn for life to protect the confidentiality of the data. The penalty for unlawful disclosure is a fine of up to \$250,000 or imprisonment of up to five years, or both.

Finally, the most efficient way to respond to the 2010 Census is to complete the form as soon as it arrives and return it in the postage-paid return envelope. Census workers will visit households that do not return forms to take the count in person.

United States[®]
**Census
2010**

Rosenberg's Complete Count Citizens' Committee is issuing a challenge to this community to increase the mail participation rate and help ensure a complete and accurate count in 2010.

For more information about the 2010 Census and the "Take 10" initiative, **visit www.2010census.gov.**

Visit the Rosenberg Office of Emergency Management's new
PUBLIC INFORMATION EMERGENCY RESPONSE (PIER) website at

www.RosenbergResponds.com

for up-to-the-minute information on emergency preparedness and response,
traffic, weather, press releases and much, much more.
The site is designed to give Rosenberg's residents and businesses the tools necessary to
stay informed, stay prepared and stay involved.

Garcia Receives Certified Permit Technician Accreditation



Johana Garcia, Permit Clerk for the City of Rosenberg since 2008, has received her Certified Permit Technician accreditation from the International Code Council. Mrs. Garcia is the main point of contact at the City's annex building regarding building permitting and code questions and concerns. The qualifying exam, which she successfully passed in December 2009, covered topics such as the legal aspects of code enforcement, occupancy classification, and communication and customer service skills. Congratulations, Johana!

Meeting & Activities Calendar

Meeting agendas available at www.ci.rosenberg.tx.us

Questions? Please call 832-595-3301 or numbers listed below:

February 1-25	Adult Softball Registration, Civic Center Call 832-595-3520 for more information
Tuesday, February 2	City Council Meeting, 2110 4th Street, 7 PM
Saturday, February 6	FREE FISH-tastic Fishing Tournament, Seabourne Creek Park, 8 to 11:30 AM
Monday, February 8	Sign Review Task Force Meeting, Civic Center, 6:30 PM
Tuesday, February 9	Richmond-Rosenberg Local Gov't. Corp. Board Mtg., Civic Center, 5:30 PM
Thursday, February 11	Rosenberg Development Corporation Meeting, Civic Center, 12 PM Transit and Pedestrian Study Public Meeting, 2110 4th Street, 7 PM
Saturday, February 13	Nickel Day in Historic Downtown Rosenberg, 10 AM to 5 PM Come join in the fun!
Monday, February 15	Image Committee Meeting, Civic Center, 12 PM
Tuesday, February 16	City Council Meeting, 2110 4th Street, 7 PM
Wednesday, February 17	Parks and Recreation Board Meeting, Civic Center, 5:30 PM
Saturday, February 20	iHoops Skill Challenge, Community Park, 9 AM to 12 PM, Call 832-595-3520 for more information
Monday, February 22	Sign Review Task Force Meeting, Civic Center, 6:30 PM
Tuesday, February 23	Special City Council Meeting, 2110 4th Street, 7 PM
Wednesday, February 24	Planning Commission Meeting, 2110 4th Street, 6 PM
Thursday, February 25	RDC Business Appreciation Reception, Civic Center, 11 AM to 2 PM Special City Council Meeting, 2110 4th Street, 6:30 PM

SAVE THESE DATES for Upcoming Events!

March	Spacek Road & Seabourne Creek Park Reclaimed Water System Groundbreakings US Census forms mailed or delivered to households
Saturday, March 27	Easter Egg Hunt, Seabourne Creek Park, 9 AM to 12 PM Rosenberg National Little League Opening Day - Seabourne Creek Park Sports Complex
April 1, 2010	National Census Day Be sure your forms have been completed & returned!
April	Race on the Brazos, Canoe & Kayak Race, Community Park Watch for more details!
Saturday, April 10	Spring Fling Car Show, Knights of Columbus Hall Call 713-774-2945 for information
Sunday, April 11	Spring Fling Car Show, Knights of Columbus Hall Call 713-774-2945 for information
Saturday, May 1	City-Wide Clean-Up Day



Federal Stimulus Appliance Rebate Program

Thinking of purchasing new appliances for your home? April may just be the perfect time to do so. The State of Texas will use approximately \$23 million in stimulus funds for a mail-in rebate program for consumers who purchase eligible Energy Star household appliances between April 16 and April 25, 2010, a ten-day period that will coincide with Earth Day. Consumers will also be eligible for an additional \$75 incentive by recycling their old appliances. Consumers will have an opportunity to reserve an appliance rebate by calling a toll-free number or registering online approximately two weeks prior to April 16. Sign up for email updates on the rebate program at www.secostimulus.org/rebate. For more information, please visit www.seco.cpa.state.tx.us/arra/.

February Beautification Awards

Avelardo & Tomasa Casias
303 Vera Cruz Drive

**E.P. Compean
Funeral Directors**
1223 6th Street

Baldo & Inez Longoria
211 Matamoros Drive

Ray and Gloria Mican
2514 Lazy Lane

Damaso & Edith Mojica
1301 Damon Street

Marvin & Petra Villalta
6214 Homestead Road

ROAD CLOSURES

Avenue D will remain
closed between
Willow & Mulcahy
until completion of
sanitary sewer
line replacement project.

MAKE SURE YOUR VOICE IS HEARD!

Come take part in the ROSENBERG TRANSIT AND PEDESTRIAN STUDY Public Meeting

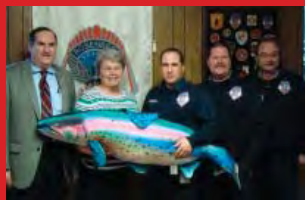
Thursday
February 11, 2010
7:00 p.m.
City Hall
Council Chamber
2110 4th Street

*Take a few moments
to complete the
enclosed Transit Survey
and return it to City Hall
with your water bill.*

*Your input
will help us continue to
build Rosenberg's future!*



Employee of the Month



Firefighter Brian Carpenter received the January Employee of the Month award for the City of Rosenberg. He was selected based on his willingness to go beyond the call of duty by volunteering his time and talents to paint several areas of the fire station and administrative offices.

His extra efforts and unselfish attitude have allowed the Fire Department to enjoy improved morale and efficacy. Brian has been a firefighter with the City of Rosenberg since 2002.

Pictured above are: Jack Hamlett, City Manager; Kathleen Hutchens, Fire Chief; Brian Carpenter, Ride-up Driver/Operator; Bill Adams, Fire Lieutenant; Daryl Hartmann, Fire Captain.

Image Committee Corner

Monthly tips and resources for enhancing your own little corner of the world...

What is a WaterWise Landscape?

A landscape designed and maintained according to basic good horticultural principles that allow for a beautiful healthy landscape with minimal supplemental irrigation and no adverse runoff from the landscape property. A WaterWise landscape can be evaluated according to its use of seven basic principles:

Appropriate plant selection
Planning and design
Soil preparation
Practical turf areas
Efficient irrigation
Use of mulches
Appropriate maintenance

For more information and tips on how to achieve a Waterwise Landscape, visit

urbanlandscapeguide.tamu.edu/waterwise.html

Source: Texas A&M Urban Landscape Guide - A cooperative project between Texas Cooperative Extension, Texas Nursery and Landscape Association and the Texas Water Development Board



Crime on the Decline in Rosenberg

The Rosenberg Police Department continues to facilitate an overall decrease in area crime. As part of its annual report to citizenry, the department reported its 2009 crime statistics in accordance with the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program at the January 19 City Council meeting. The highlight of the report was a 6.8% decrease in reportable crimes from 2008, and a 46% decrease from 1996.

The UCR program uses a statistical tool referred to as the “crime index” which consists of seven serious, “Part 1” crimes that present a common enforcement problem to police agencies across the state. UCR statistics are used to assess the amount and types of these crimes occurring statewide. Crimes reported by the Rosenberg PD are categorized as either violent crimes, including murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault, or as property crimes such as burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft.

Part 1 crimes reported for Rosenberg in 2009 include:

- **Two homicides** the last week of 2009. Prior to these incidents, there have been no homicides in Rosenberg since 2004.
- Seven reported **rapes**, down from 18 in 2008, a **61% decrease**.
- **17 robberies**, a **29% decrease** from 2008.
- 661 reported **assaults** in 2009, a **7% decrease** from 2008 and a 31% decrease since 1996.
- 198 reported **burglaries**; a **13% increase** from 175 in 2008, but a 37% decrease since 1996.
- 442 **larceny/theft incidences**, a **9% decrease** from 485 in 2008.
- 34 **motor vehicle thefts**, a **32% decrease** from 2008 and a drastic 70% decrease from the 115 cases reported in 1996.

Despite increases in two of the seven reportable categories, Rosenberg saw an overall decrease in Index Crimes for 2009. There were a total of 1361 reported cases for 2009, compared to 1460 cases for 2008, a 6.8% decrease. Furthermore, the 2009 reported cases **represent a remarkable 46% decrease in reportable crimes since 1996**, when 2512 crimes were reported under the UCR. This decrease has occurred even despite the widespread growth of the population and community.

The decrease in overall crime demonstrates the Rosenberg Police Department’s continued commitment to the community and proactive policing techniques, and can be attributed to several factors including professional development, the utilization of technology, and increased visibility along with renewed and strengthened relationships with citizens and area businesses. Police Department personnel training provides skills specific to proactive police work, and officers have made major strides by incorporating technology into their daily operations. Additionally, the Rosenberg PD hosted several events designed to facilitate communication between the Police Department, businesses and residents in 2009.

Spacek Road Realignment Project

The City will begin work on the Spacek Road realignment project in February 2010. Spacek Road will be rebuilt from Research Drive to Reading Road to align with the existing intersection at the entrance to Brazos Town Center Phase II. The work will also include stormwater drainage improvements. Expected completion is July 2010, weather-permitting.

Drivers are asked to take extra caution in this area and be prepared for closures and detours throughout the duration of the work.

ROSENBERG DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Building Our Future

Why Buy Close By?

Retail development benefits residents of Rosenberg in multiple ways. It serves as an economic driver, employing over ten thousand people in our community. Retail is also an amenity - it provides shopping opportunities within our City which saves individuals time - and ultimately money - by providing a convenient, local source for goods. Rosenberg is now viewed as a shopping destination, whether by a customer looking for special and unique gifts in the shops in Historic Downtown, or an individual shopping at one of the new "big box" stores in Brazos Town Center.

When you shop in Rosenberg, you help your community and yourself by keeping your tax dollars local and allowing them to be recirculated and reinvested into projects which benefit the City as a whole. From a municipal perspective, retail shopping benefits the City through the generation of sales tax. This in turn, directly impacts residents of Rosenberg by funding services and infrastructure provided by City government such as police and fire protection, road maintenance and water service.

In Rosenberg, sales tax collected is distributed in the following way:

- 6.25 cents of every dollar spent goes to the State of Texas and
- 2 cents goes to the City.

- Of the City's 2 cents:

- 0.5 cent is dedicated to lowering property taxes and
- 0.5 cent is dedicated for economic development projects through the Rosenberg Development Corporation to create jobs and spur economic activity.

During the 2008 holiday shopping season (November and December), the City of Rosenberg received over \$2,000,000 in sales tax revenue. Brazos Town Center alone contributed \$730,000 of that amount.

The City of Rosenberg is dedicated to supporting its existing and new retail establishments, in all areas of our community. In 2009, the City, through tax increment reinvestment zone funds and bond monies approved by the voters in 2006, reconstructed the sidewalks on 3rd Street between Avenue F and Avenue H in the heart of our historic downtown. Future improvements are planned to F.M. 2218, Avenue H and F.M. 762.

Having a vibrant retail sector is an important part of Rosenberg's economic development program because Retail businesses provide jobs, generate tax revenue, and improve the quality of life of residents.

Business Appreciation Reception a Success

The Rosenberg Development Corporation, with the assistance and expertise of the Central Fort Bend Chamber Alliance, hosted its annual Business Appreciation Reception on Thursday, February 25, at the Rosenberg Civic Center. The event is designed to honor local businesses while providing resources to help them grow and expand. It provided business owners with information and resources to grow their business and answered questions for budding business owners about the process of starting a new business.

More than 250 people packed the Rosenberg Civic Center for the revamped version of the event which had a new look in 2010, and based on the increased attendance, the event was a smashing success. The attendees packed into the Rosenberg Civic Center in search of information, networking opportunities and some of the finest food the city has to offer.



The Reception offered attendees the opportunity to sample some of the finest cuisine in the city. Another Time Soda Fountain, Bob's Taco Station, Chick-fil-A, Cracker Barrel, Frito Lay, Gringo's Tex-Mex, Kroger Marketplace, Schulze's Bar-B-Que, and Texas Roadhouse provided complimentary tastes of their fares, and Silver Eagle Distributors provided soft beverages.

"The Central Fort Bend Chamber Alliance was thrilled with the opportunity to partner with the RDC on this annual endeavor," said Chamber CEO Gail Parker. "We share the goal of quality business and community growth, so this was a perfect way to join forces and promote economic development in Rosenberg. The event's success was icing on the cake."



Exhibitors included American Red Cross, Central Fort Bend Chamber Alliance, Conrad N. Hilton School of Restaurant and Hotel Management, Fort Bend Herald, CFBCA Hispanic Business Division, Rosenberg Development Corporation, Texana Center (pictured at left), UH-TX Manufacturing Assistance Center, University of Houston Fort Bend County Small Business Development Center, various City Departments, Wharton County Junior College Fort Bend Technical Center, Texas State Technical College, West Fort Bend Management District and Workforce Solutions.

A big "thank you" goes out to the staff of the Central Fort Bend Chamber Alliance for their assistance in making this year's reception a success!

Photos courtesy Central Fort Bend Chamber Alliance.

Kirchner Receives Code Enforcement Officer Certification



Michelle Kirchner, Building Inspector for the City of Rosenberg since 2009, has received her Certified Code Enforcement Officer accreditation from the Code Enforcement Association of Texas (CEAT). Ms. Kirchner completed 36 hours of training in the Basic Code Enforcement Officer Course through the Texas Engineering Extension Service in conjunction with CEAT.

The course covered current codes and standards, including topics such as how to legally and effectively administer compliance programs in land-use and nuisance abatement, zoning, home occupations, high weeds and junk vehicles. Congratulations, Michelle, on a job well done!

Kirchner is pictured above with Mayor Joe Gurecky and Lieutenant Wayne Jory.

Meeting & Activities Calendar

Meeting agendas available at www.ci.rosenberg.tx.us

Questions? Please call 832-595-3301 or numbers listed below:

Thursday, March 11	Rosenberg Development Corporation Meeting, Civic Center, 12 PM
Sunday, March 14	Daylight Savings Time Begins - Spring Forward, 2 AM
Monday, March 15	Image Committee Meeting, Civic Center, 12 PM
	US Census forms mailed to households
Tuesday, March 16	City Council Meeting, 2110 4th Street, 7 PM
Wednesday, March 17	Parks and Recreation Board Meeting, Civic Center, 5:30 PM
Monday, March 22	Sign Review Task Force Meeting, Civic Center, 6:30 PM
Tuesday, March 23	Special City Council Meeting, 2110 4th Street, 6 PM
Wednesday, March 24	Planning Commission Meeting, 2110 4th Street, 6 PM
Saturday, March 27	Easter Egg Hunt, Seabourne Creek Park, 3 PM to 5 PM
	Rosenberg National Little League Opening Day, Sunset Park
Thursday, April 1	National Census Day
	Be sure your forms have been completed & returned!
Friday, April 2	City Facilities closed for Good Friday
Tuesday, April 6	City Council Meeting, 2110 4th Street, 7 PM
Thursday, April 8	Rosenberg Development Corporation Meeting, Civic Center, 12 PM
SAVE THESE DATES for Upcoming Events!	
Saturday, April 10	Race on the Brazos Canoe & Kayak Race, Community Park to George Park; visit www.kc7445.org/roth/ or contact brazosrace@gmail.com
Saturday, April 10 and Sunday, April 11	Spring Fling Car Show, Knights of Columbus Hall
Saturday, April 24	Call 713-774-2945 for information
	Pitch, Hit & Run, BF Terry High School, 9 AM
	FREE - Children aged 7 to 14 welcome, call 832-595-3520 for more info.
Thursday, April 29	Transit and Pedestrian Study Public Meeting #2, 2110 4th Street, 7 PM
Saturday, May 1	City-Wide Clean-Up Day, Sunset & Brazos Parks, 8 AM to 5 PM
	Call 832-595-3960 for more information
	Cinco de Mayo Celebration, 3rd Street Park Downtown
	Call 281-239-5236 for more information



Easter Egg Hunt Scheduled for March 27

The City is hosting its annual community Easter Egg Hunt at Seabourne Creek Park on Saturday, March 27 from 3:00 to 5:00 PM. There is no cost for the event, and parents are invited to bring the kiddos to visit with the Easter Bunny, hunt for eggs, have their faces painted and participate in games in the Park. Better yet, come early and bring your chairs, fishing poles and picnic lunches to soak up the beautiful spring weather!

Please note the time change of the easter egg hunt from previous years - we'd hate for you to miss it! For more information, call 832-595-3520.

March Beautification Awards

Capital One

2801 1st Street

Cecil & Bettie Clark

2506 Parkway

Garmany & Carden

Funeral Directors

1201 4th Street

Carlos & Maria Ortiz

923 Seabourne Meadows

Jose & Gloria Umanzor

2814 Avenue J

ROAD CLOSURES

Avenue D will remain closed between Willow & Mulcahy until completion of sanitary sewer line replacement project.

United States[®]
**Census
2010**

The Census is coming!

Keep an eye out for the short questionnaire from the US Census Bureau which is set to be mailed to households nation-wide on March 15.

Take 10 minutes to fill out the quick, 10-question survey and return it. Your effort helps us all ensure our needs are accounted for over the next 10 years.

Remember, your information is strictly confidential, and cannot be shared with anyone (including other governmental agencies).

Everyone must be counted...
Take 10 and make sure your voice is heard!



IT'S IN OUR HANDS

Spacek Road Realignment Project

As part of the Spacek Road Realignment Project, Spacek Road will be rebuilt from Research Drive to Reading Road to align with the existing intersection at the entrance to Brazos Town Center Phase II. The project will also include stormwater drainage improvements. City contractors will be working in the area throughout the next few months. Expected completion is July 2010, weather-permitting.

Drivers are asked to take extra caution in this area and be prepared for closures and detours throughout the duration of work.

Image Committee Corner

Monthly tips and resources for enhancing your own little corner of the world...

Fort Bend County Recycling Center
1200 Blume Road
Tel: 281-633-7581

The County recycling center is open to all Fort Bend County residents, and can accept many items that cannot be picked up with your regular garbage service such as household hazardous waste and paper, plastic, metal and can, and glass recycling. They can also accept automotive oil, rechargeable batteries of any sort, and printer & ink cartridges. Some items including appliances, televisions, tires and paint are accepted, but have a small fee associated with them.

Recycle Center hours:
8 - 4 Mon., Tues., Thurs.-Sat.

Household Hazardous Waste hours:
8 - 6 Mondays
8 - 2 first Sat. of each month

For more information please call the above phone number or visit:
www.co.fort-bend.tx.us and select Quicklinks, Engineering and then Recycle Center.



City Honors its Volunteers

The City of Rosenberg honored its citizen volunteers Thursday, February 18, at the City's annual Volunteer Appreciation Banquet held at the Civic Center. Over 100 individuals were recognized for their contributions to the community through their service on a City of Rosenberg committee. After a welcome by the Mayor, each committee member was presented a certificate of appreciation, honoring them for giving generously of their time, talents and energy to benefit their fellow citizens and the City of Rosenberg and thanking them for their dedicated service.



The evening culminated in the presentation of two special awards. The two longest-serving volunteers, Ms. Bertha Nell Kelm and Mr. Stanley Kucherka, were honored for their cumulative 69 years of service to the City by being named the 2010 Volunteer Queen and King. Ms. Kelm has served on the Parks and Recreation Board since 1989, while Mr. Kucherka has served on the Parks and Recreation Board since 1962, and the Image Committee since 1994. They are pictured above with Mayor Joe Gurecky.

If you are interested in serving on a City Committee, please contact the City Secretary's office at 832-595-3340.

Community Dance Classes now Offered at Civic Center

The Civic Center is now offering **dance classes for adults at no cost** to Rosenberg residents. **Beginner Line Dance** classes are held Tuesdays starting March 2 from 8:30 to 9:30 AM and 5:45 to 6:45 PM. **Beginner Clogging** classes are held Thursdays starting March 4 from 8:30 to 9:30 AM and 5:45 to 6:45 PM. For more information, call 832-595-3520.

2010 City-Wide Clean-Up Day Set for May 1

Have you got spring fever? The City encourages you to channel that energy into a clean and tidy house and yard by making the most of its annual City-Wide Clean-Up Day scheduled for Saturday, May 1.

City staff will be on hand at Sunset and Brazos Parks from 8 AM to 5 PM to accept items from Rosenberg residents. Individuals will need to show proof of residency by bringing a City utility bill with them.

Items that cannot be accepted include tires, batteries, gas tanks, wet paint, oil, chemicals, fertilizer, hazardous materials, or appliances with freon.

For more information, please call 832-595-3960.

For information on items that can be accepted at the Fort Bend County Recycling Center throughout the year, please see the side bar of this page or call 281-633-7581.

ROSENBERG DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Building Our Future

BRAZOS TOWN CENTER LESSENS ECONOMIC DOWNTURN'S IMPACT ON ROSENBERG

The City of Rosenberg has calculated the sales and property tax impact of the Brazos Town Center development through January 2010. Since opening in 2006, Brazos Town Center has generated nearly \$8.5 million (\$8,499,988) in sales and property tax revenue (gross) for the City of Rosenberg - \$6,934,216 in sales tax, and \$1,565,772 in property tax for phase I.

Overall sales tax revenue for the City of Rosenberg has increased 41.4% from FY 2006 (\$7,557,522) to FY 2009 (\$10,686,529). The nearly \$7 million in sales tax generated by Brazos Town Center represents 18.1% (nearly 1/5) of sales tax revenue for the entire City (\$38,364,761) over the same period of time (April 2006 to January 2010). For FY 2009, Brazos Town Center sales tax revenue (\$2,787,818) represented 26.1% of the City's total. After deducting the cost of eligible infrastructure reimbursements made to the property developer to-date and anticipated upcoming payments in FY 2010, the development's net revenue to the City of Rosenberg is just over \$3.25 million (\$3,276,867). Although this calculation includes anticipated payments to the developer through FY 2010, it only includes sales tax collected through January 2010, and property taxes collected for phase I.

Increased sales tax revenues, 1/4 of which go directly toward property tax reduction in the City of Rosenberg, coupled with an increase in assessed property values of new development at Brazos Town Center and throughout the City, have enabled the City to reduce the property tax rate from \$0.55 per \$100 valuation (FY 2007) to \$0.50 per \$100 valuation (FY 2010) – lowering the overall tax burden on Rosenberg citizens, even during the widespread economic downturn.

In addition to reducing property taxes, sales tax revenues also directly impact the City's general fund (1/2 of sales tax generated) and economic development initiatives (1/4 of sales tax generated). This helps enhance City services, and allows for the reinvestment of dollars in the community to help grow the tax base, create jobs and enhance residents' quality of life. Of the \$6.9 million in gross City sales tax generated by Brazos Town Center to-date, \$1.73 million has gone toward reducing the City's property tax rate, \$1.73 million to the Rosenberg Development Corporation, and \$3.47 million to the City's general fund.

The Rosenberg Development Corporation was established through public referendum in 1995 and is allocated one-half cent of the City's sales tax proceeds to invest in projects that promote or develop new or expanding business, create jobs, and improve the quality of life in the community.

Rosenberg Parks Ready for Spring

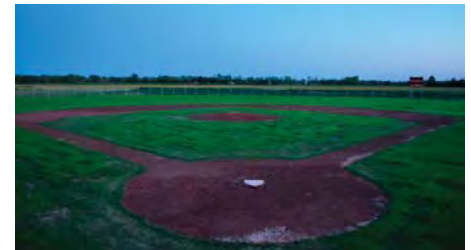
The City's Parks received a little extra tender loving care over the winter months with help from the Parks and Recreation Department, the Rosenberg Development Corporation (RDC), and the Texas Master Naturalists.

Significant improvements have been made community-wide in Rosenberg's neighborhood parks. The new Rocket at Sunset Park (pictured at right) is progressing nicely, and project completion is expected by the first of April. Garcia, Brazos and Community Parks have each received new playground equipment (pictured below). Additional improvements include a new sidewalk and swing at Brazos Park, a canoe launch site at Community Park, and new water fountains at Garcia and Harwood Park.



and Doris Gurecky). The Regional Sports Complex will be home to the Rosenberg National Little League (RNLL), Rosenberg Roughnecks Youth Football, and other youth sports organizations that the City may enter into partnership with in the future. The City is hopeful that the complex will draw for regional, state and national tournaments, as well.

The Texas Master Naturalists Coastal Prairie Chapter has been instrumental in the Nature Park section of Seabourne Creek Park. Over the winter months, they successfully planted 82 trees that the City secured through a grant from Apache Corporation, in the prairie restoration area. With financial assistance from the RDC, they will continue improvements to the prairie restoration area including a butterfly garden, additional trees, and irrigation. Additional improvements in the Nature Park include a picnic pavilion being completed by Eagle Scout candidate, Kevin Esswein. When finished, it will be one of three available for use in the park - no reservation required.



Be sure to keep an eye out for these, and many more exciting new improvements to come, throughout the City's park system.

To reserve pavilions or ballfields at any of the City parks, please call 832-595-3520. For more information on City park amenities or recreation programs, please visit the Parks page on the City website (www.ci.rosenberg.tx.us) or call the above number.

Come celebrate the opening of the Seabourne Creek Regional Sports Complex

Saturday, April 24, 2010

More details coming soon...



Snyder Named February Employee of the Month

Mindi Snyder, the City's Finance Director since 2007, was named February employee of the month. Mrs. Snyder was nominated for her diligence and hard work on several City projects including: coordinating the transition of Bond Counsel firms; facilitating the issuance of Certificates of Obligation to appropriate funding for multiple City projects; refunding outstanding Water and Wastewater Revenue Bonds to save the City interest; coordinating completion of the FY 2009 Audit; providing important information to the Bond Rating Agencies; preparing documentation for the consideration of revised water and wastewater rates for the groundwater conversion project; establishing compliance reporting for several grant-funded projects and preparing an application for a State Energy Conservation Office grant. All of these projects were performed in addition to her daily responsibilities. She is pictured



with City Manager Jack Hamlett. Congratulations, Mindi, and thank you for all of your hard work!

Meeting & Activities Calendar

Meeting agendas available at www.ci.rosenberg.tx.us

Questions? Please call 832-595-3301 or numbers listed below:

Saturday, April 10	Race on the Brazos Canoe & Kayak Race, Community Park www.raceonthebrazos.com/RaceOnTheBrazos.htm
Saturday, April 10 and Sunday, April 11	Spring Fling Car Show, Knights of Columbus Hall
Sunday, April 18	Family Kite Festival, Seabourne Creek Park, 1 PM to 4 PM www.fortbendchildren.org
Monday, April 19	Image Committee Meeting, Civic Center, 12 PM Sign Review Task Force Meeting, Civic Center, 6:30 PM
Tuesday, April 20	City Council Meeting, 2110 4th Street, 7 PM
Wednesday, April 21	Parks and Recreation Board Meeting, Civic Center, 5:30 PM
Saturday, April 24	Seabourne Creek Regional Sports Complex Opening & Pitch, Hit & Run Rosenberg Railroad Festival and Hobo Days, Historic Downtown Rosenberg, 10 AM to 6 PM
Thursday, April 22	Earth Day
Tuesday, April 27	Special City Council Meeting, 2110 4th Street, 6 PM
Wednesday, April 28	Planning Commission Meeting, 2110 4th Street, 6 PM
Saturday, May 1	City-Wide Clean-Up Day, Sunset & Brazos Parks, 8 AM to 5 PM Cinco de Mayo Fiesta, K.C. Hall - 2007 KayCee Drive, 12 PM to 6 PM

SAVE THESE DATES for Upcoming Events!

Thursday, May 6	Transit and Pedestrian Study Public Meeting #2, 2110 4th Street, 7 PM
Sunday, May 23	Chocolate Walk, Historic Downtown Rosenberg, 12 PM to 5 PM
Monday, May 31	Memorial Day Holiday - City Offices Closed - <i>garbage will be collected on the next regularly-scheduled pick-up day</i>

Egg-cellent Turnout for Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Hundreds of children and their families turned out to enjoy the beautiful weather and take part in the City's Easter Egg Hunt held at the R.W. Lindsey Gazebo at Seabourne Creek Park Saturday, March 27. Children spent time with the Easter Bunny, hunted eggs, and participated in games and activities provided by PowerHouse Christian Center.



APRIL BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS

Gayle & James Brinkman
1803 West Street

Chili's Grill & Bar Restaurant
24502 Southwest Freeway

Holy Rosary Catholic Church
1416 George Street

Iglesia Filadelfia
1820 Brazos Street

John & Lori Oliver
1032 Timber Lane

United States®
**Census
2010**

**Return your form
TODAY!**

Cranek Named to President's List at Lone Star College - CyFair

Garett Cranek, Firefighter with the Rosenberg Fire Department since 2008, has been named to the President's List at Lone Star College - CyFair.

Mr. Cranek is studying Fire Science Technology and was recognized for his commitment to high standards of student achievement during the Fall 2009 semester.

The President's List is comprised of students who have accumulated 12 credit hours and who have a semester grade point average of 3.30 or above for 6 or more credit hours taken during the semester.

Congratulations, Garett, on a job well done!





Image Committee Corner

Monthly tips and resources for enhancing your own little corner of the world...

Provided below in honor of the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day - April 22, 2010 are six simple, but effective ways to reduce waste, save energy, trees and other resources and help fight pollution and curb climate change year-round.

1) Set up a recycle center in your kitchen or utility room to encourage more consistent recycling.

2) Reuse or recycle as many of your empty health and beauty product containers as possible.

3) Leave grass clippings on the lawn after you mow. This saves energy and landfill space, and the decomposition of the grass returns important nutrients to the soil.

4) Recycle plastic packing peanuts by saving them for the next time you send a package, taking them to any UPS store location, or calling the Plastic Loose Fill Council's 24-hour Peanut hotline at 1-800-828-2214.

5) Invest in a set of rechargeable batteries and charger for powering your electronic devices. You'll reduce waste, save resources and money in the long run.

6) Choose toilet paper made from 100% recycled fibers. According to the Natural Resources Defense Council, if every household in the U.S. replaced one roll of virgin fiber toilet paper with 100% recycled ones, we'd save 423,900 trees.

Source:

www.recyclebank.com/livegreen

For more great information on recycling, visit:
www.earth911.com



2010 City-Wide Clean-Up Day Set for May 1

The City will be hosting its annual Spring Clean-Up Day Saturday, May 1, and encourages citizens of Rosenberg to make the most of it by bringing unwanted items for disposal. Staff and volunteers will be on hand at Sunset and Brazos Parks from 8 AM to 5 PM to accept items from Rosenberg residents. Individuals will need to show proof of residency by bringing a City utility bill with them.



Items that cannot be accepted include tires, batteries, gas tanks, wet paint, oil, chemicals, fertilizer, hazardous materials, or appliances with freon.

For more information on the May 1 Spring Clean-up, please call 832-595-3960.



Some items that cannot be accepted at the Clean-Up can be dropped off at the **Fort Bend County Recycling Center** located at 1200 Blume Road. The County center accepts certain types of household hazardous waste, as well as paper, plastic, metal and glass for recycling. Additionally, they accept automotive oil, rechargeable batteries, and printer and ink cartridges. Appliances, televisions, tires and paint are accepted, for a small fee.

The Recycle Center is open 8 AM to 4 PM Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Household Hazardous Waste is accepted Monday from 8 AM to 6 PM and the first Saturday of each month from 8 AM to 2 PM.

For more information on services available at the Fort Bend County Recycling Center please call 281-633-7581, or visit: www.co.fort-bend.tx.us and select "Quicklinks", "Engineering" and then "Recycle Center".

Rosenberg Home Solicitor Ordinance

The City of Rosenberg is dedicated to protecting its citizens' lives and property. To this end, the City requires a home solicitor, defined by the Rosenberg Code of Ordinances, Chapter 16, Article IV, Section 16-171, as "a person who goes from house to house or from place to place soliciting, selling or taking orders for or offering to sell or take orders for any goods, merchandise or services", to obtain a permit before conducting such business.

The permitting process allows the City to help ensure the safety of its citizens by requiring potential solicitors to meet certain criteria including submitting an application to the Code Enforcement Office (2220 4th Street). The information contained in the application is used by the Rosenberg Police Department to complete a background check on the individual. The City is not obligated to grant a permit that may be detrimental to the citizens of Rosenberg and to this end, if the applicant is found to have a criminal history, and depending on the severity of the offense, the City of Rosenberg may choose to deny a home solicitor's permit for the individual. Any person who is granted a permit is given an ID badge containing their name, address and the name of the business they are representing.

The City encourages its residents to always be on the lookout for dangerous or suspicious persons. Anyone who notices a suspicious person or vehicle in their neighborhood, is encouraged to contact Rosenberg Police Dispatch at 832-595-3700. If citizens notice an individual going house-to-house without proper identification as noted above, please contact Citizen Relations at 832-595-3301. The Citizen Relations Coordinator will collect all of the necessary information and direct the complaint to the appropriate department for investigation.

ROSENBERG DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Building Our Future

ROSENBERG TRANSIT AND PEDESTRIAN STUDY

Traffic Engineers, Inc. will hold a second public meeting on the Rosenberg Transit and Pedestrian Study on behalf of the Rosenberg Development Corporation (RDC). The study is being conducted in conjunction with the City of Rosenberg and Fort Bend County.

Traffic Engineers, Inc. has prepared a draft Transit Plan that includes recommended phasing of transit improvements and a draft Pedestrian Plan that identifies proposed sidewalk and bikeway improvements. Additionally, a draft Financial Plan has been developed for implementing the recommended improvements.

Community participation is necessary to ensure the success of the study. The purpose of the second public meeting is to present the findings and recommendations of the Rosenberg Transit and Pedestrian Study and to solicit residents' input on the recommended transit and pedestrian improvements.

The public meeting is scheduled as follows:

Transit and Pedestrian Study Public Meeting
Thursday, May 6, 2010
7:00 p.m.
Rosenberg City Hall Council Chamber
2110 4th Street

Please join the RDC to hear a presentation from Traffic Engineers, Inc. and to have the opportunity to give input.

For more information on the Rosenberg Transit and Pedestrian Study, please visit: www.RosenbergEcoDev.com.

City Energy Efficiency Project Benefits All

The City of Rosenberg is undertaking a \$6.5 million energy-efficiency project made possible through a State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) loan program. Rosenberg City Council approved the project in May 2009, and subsequently, staff applied for and successfully received \$5 million in loans to complete the project through the SECO LoanSTAR program. This program makes funding available for building efficiency and retrofit projects through revolving loans open to governmental entities which repay their loans with money saved from lowered utility costs. Loans through the program are paid back within 10 years, allowing the state to recycle these funds to benefit future projects. The remaining \$1.5 million of the City project was financed through Bank of America.

The SECO website states:

"The Texas LoanSTAR (loans to Save Taxes And Resources) Program uses a revolving loan mechanism, which will allow it to continue indefinitely and benefit generations of future Texans.... The quality control on all phases of LoanSTAR has made it one of the most successful and best-documented building energy efficiency programs, state or federal, in the United States....The funding source is petroleum violation escrow funds (PVE) from the federal government.

LoanSTAR is unique in a number of ways (including the acronym for its name, since its origins are in the Lone Star State). The size, \$98.6 million, makes it the largest state-run building conservation program in the United States. The loans are targeted for public buildings, including state agencies, school districts, higher education, local governments and hospitals.

...the State Energy Office developed program procedures and guidelines to allow the LoanSTAR Program to not only prove that the financed energy retrofits would pay for themselves, but also to demonstrate that the actual energy savings were being exceeded by over 20% of the originally estimated savings."

The City of Rosenberg Energy Efficiency Project includes the following elements:

Replacement of heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system and controls at City Hall, the City Hall Annex Building, and the Police Department (approximately \$400,000)

Lighting replacement at City facilities (\$360,000)

Water conservation measures, including the replacement of fixtures at City facilities (\$40,000)

Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements (\$1.6 million)

System-wide Water Meter Replacement Program (\$4.0 million)

The Water Meter Replacement Program is nearly complete, and will provide up-to-the-day data via wireless reading of meters which saves staff time and improves efficiency. The improved meters will allow for better and more thorough data collection which, in turn, will allow for improved future planning for the provision of water resources. This becomes increasingly important as the City moves toward adopting and implementing a Groundwater Reduction Plan as mandated by the Fort Bend Subsidence District.

Not only has the energy-efficiency project allowed the City to retrofit buildings and facilities to save on energy costs and reduce consumption, but the LoanSTAR program also has allowed Rosenberg to fund upgrades and improvements of aging infrastructure based on the actual savings realized through these improvements. This initiative provides sustainability for operating and maintenance budgets well into the future.

Garcia Named March Employee of the Month

Michael Garcia, the City's Rental Property Inspector, was named March employee of the month. Mr. Garcia was nominated by his fellow employees for going the extra mile to help repair a sanitary sewer line at Fire Station 2. By utilizing his personal expertise and knowledge, Michael was able to save the City the cost of hiring a contractor to complete the repairs. Through the undoubtedly dirty and arduous task, Michael (and his father) maintained a positive, "can-do" attitude and were able to successfully rectify the problem.



Michael's dedication to his job was demonstrated by his proactive and positive approach to fixing the problem. He is pictured with City Manager Jack Hamlett and members of the Fire Department Administrative Staff, including Chief Kathleen Hutchens, Assistant Chief Darrell Himly, Fire Marshal Wade Goates, Barbara Smolik and Shiela Minks.

Congratulations, Michael, and thank you for going above and beyond the call of duty! Ur. Fui se mus. C. Valabem oventela ocula no. Legerbit.

Fort Bend Master Gardeners help Beautify Entryways

On Saturday, April 17, 2010, the Rosenberg Development Corporation (RDC) partnered with the Fort Bend Master Gardeners to landscape and beautify the entryway signs to the City of Rosenberg. Volunteers from the Master Gardeners planted knock-out roses and copper canyon daisies in the garden areas of the entryway signs at Brazos Park on FM 723 and Avenue H.

This project is one component in the ongoing RDC initiative to improve the aesthetics of Rosenberg for residents, businesses and visitors alike.

A big "thank you" goes out to the Master Gardeners who participated in this project including: Gina Goodman, Shari Koch, Sherry Ledbetter, David Mannino, Vince Mannino, Georgia Moncrief, Cynthia Reyburn, Lisa Rogers, and Karen Zurawski.



Rosenberg Police Explorers Win Again



Rosenberg Police Explorer Post #2120, under the guidance of Detective Randy Weishiemi and Officers Timothy Kraus and Michael Bradley, competed in the 2010 Corpus Christi Law Enforcement Explorer Competition held April 17-18. The Explorers took home first place in the Burglary in Progress, Search and Seizure, Misdemeanor Traffic Stop, Police Bicycle Course, and Physical Agility segments of the competition; second place in the Domestic Disturbance scenario, and third in the Active Shooter portion. Overall, the Rosenberg Explorers ranked second out of the 30 teams present! Congratulations and thank you for being such superb representatives of our community!

For more information on the Explorer program, contact Detective Weishiemi at 832-595-3700.

Pictured are Explorers Tyler Severin, Zvoni Smith, Andrew Lopez, Jimmy Lewis, Kenny Pale, Anthony Ortega, Alex Medina, Thomas Ramirez, Jay Fowler, Lizbeth Ocampo, Christina Barr, Laura Palacios, Eunice Vasquez, Courtney Lopez, Arielle Picon, & Chris Montoya with instructors Weishiemi, Kraus, and Bradley.

Jimenez Receives Municipal Court Clerk Certification

Lucilo Jimenez, Rosenberg Municipal Court Clerk since February 2009, has received his Clerk I Certification through the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center's Municipal Court Clerk Certification Program. Clerk I certification is the first certification level in the program established to encourage professional development and educational growth.

The certification is achieved after completing at least 40 hours of educational training and passing the certification test. Upon receiving the certification, Clerks must keep up to date by completing continuing education courses each year in order to maintain their certification. Areas of emphasis in the Clerk I certification include: an overview of the courts, authorities and duties, ethics, procedures before trial, trial processes, post trial procedures, state and city reports, traffic law, juveniles and minors, and communications and stress management. Congratulations, Lucilo!



MAY BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS

Max & Mary Almendarez
5312 Troutline

Phil & Laura Jaramillo
3515 Cypress Landing Ct.

Edward McColl, Sr.
2402 Freeway Manor

Alvis & Edna Schmidt
1417 Tobola

**Barbara & Barney
Stringer**
2607 Bass Lane

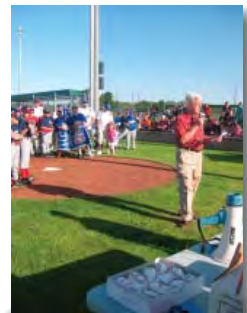
United States
**Census
2010**

BE COUNTED!

**Sunset Rocket
Grand Opening
April 20, 2010**



**Seabourne Creek
Regional Sports Complex
Official Opening
April 24, 2010**



Rosenberg Fire Department Reminds Community of Importance of Appropriate House-Numbering

Help make Rosenberg a safer place for everyone!

It is very difficult for Fire, Police and EMS to locate the correct address in an emergency situation if locations are not appropriately marked.

Fire Code requires that buildings have address numbers placed in a visible and legible location from the street or road fronting the property. The numbers should be in contrast with their background, be arabic numerals or alphabet letters, and be a minimum of 4 inches high and 1/2 inch wide (each character).

In the coming weeks, City Code Enforcement Officers and Fire Inspectors will be in neighborhoods reminding residents about the importance of appropriately marking their addresses.

If you have any questions about this requirement or would like further information, please contact the Fire Administration Offices at 832-595-3600 and someone will be happy to assist you.

Image Committee Corner

Tips and resources for enhancing your own little corner of the world...

Preventing waste in the first place is preferable to any waste management option...including recycling. Donating used (but still operational) electronics for reuse extends the lives of valuable products and keeps them out of the waste stream for a longer period of time. Reuse, in addition to being an environmentally preferable alternative, also benefits society.

By donating your used electronics, you allow schools, nonprofit organizations, and lower-income families to obtain equipment that they otherwise could not afford.

Visit: <http://earth911.com/recycling/electronics/> to search for local e-cycling opportunities.

Source: <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/conserve/materials/ecycling/basic.htm>



Picnic Pavilion Eagle Scout Project

Eagle Scout candidate, Kevin Esswein, recently completed a picnic pavilion along one of the trails in Seabourne Creek Nature Park as his Eagle project. The pavilion is one of three in the park available for use, no-reservation-required. The pavilion - designed, funded and built through Esswein's efforts - is certainly a valuable addition to the park and will be enjoyed by many for years to come. Thank you, Kevin, for your contributions to our community!



Fire Department Pinning Ceremony

Fire Chief Kathleen Hutchens and her Command staff, including Assistant Chief Darrell Himly, Captain Larry Loesch, Captain Daryl Hartmann and Fire Marshal Wade Goates, honored new members of the Rosenberg Fire Department as well as newly-promoted firefighters through a badge-pinning ceremony at the Tuesday, April 20 City Council Meeting. Each firefighter's badge was pinned by a loved one or significant person in their career. After receiving their badge, the firefighters approached Command staff with a salute, and were met with one in return - a traditional symbol of recognition and honor in the Fire Service.

Firefighters recognized at the meeting included:



Deborah Prihoda - Chaplain

Reverend Prihoda agreed to serve as the Fire Department Chaplain in 2009. She has served as Senior Pastor of the First Assembly of God congregation since 2002 and is a certified Victim Chaplain and on-call responder to local, regional and national disasters. She was pinned by her brother, Lt. Lester Phipps.

Darwin Dobesh - Driver-Operator

Mr. Dobesh has been employed by the City since November 2002 and has served as a volunteer since 1986. He holds certifications of Intermediate Firefighter, Driver-Operator and EMT. He was pinned by his wife, Judy.

Justin Jurek - Driver-Operator

Mr. Jurek came to work for the City as a telecommunications operator in January 2001 and became a firefighter in 2002. He holds certifications of Intermediate Firefighter, Intermediate Fire Inspector, Intermediate Arson Investigator, Driver-Operator, Hazardous Materials Technician, Fire Instructor II, Peace Officer, and EMT. He was pinned by his wife, Lauren.

Clint Leopold - Driver-Operator

Mr. Leopold started with the City in January 2002. He holds certifications of Advanced Firefighter, Advanced Fire Inspector, Advanced Fire Investigator, Fire Officer I, Fire Instructor II, Driver-Operator, and EMT-Intermediate. He was pinned by his wife, Chrissy.

Troy Svatek - Driver-Operator

Mr. Svatek began his work for the City in December 1998. He is certified as an Advanced Firefighter, Advanced Inspector, Intermediate Investigator, Fire Instructor I, Driver-Operator, and EMT. He was pinned by his wife, Tiffany.

Justin White - Driver-Operator

Mr. White came to Rosenberg from the Richmond Fire Department in January 2007. He is certified as an Intermediate Firefighter, Driver-Operator, Fire Instructor I, Hazardous Materials Technician, Fire Officer I, and EMT-Intermediate. He was pinned by his wife, Jenna.

J.O. Villarreal - Fire Inspector

Mr. Villarreal came to the City first in January 2002. He took a brief sabbatical and returned to Rosenberg employment in March 2009. He is certified as an Advanced Firefighter, Advanced Inspector, Advanced Investigator, Advanced Peace Officer, Fire Instructor II, and EMT-Intermediate. He was pinned by Fire Marshal Goates.

Brandon George - New Firefighter

Mr. George came to the City of Rosenberg in October 2009 as a graduate of WCJC. He has been a member of the El Campo Volunteer Fire Department since 2008 and comes from a family tradition of Fire Service. Brandon's certifications include Basic Firefighter and EMT-Intermediate. He was pinned by his father, Chief Jimmy George Jr. of the El Campo Volunteer Fire Department, and his grandfather, Jimmy George Sr., former Chief of the El Campo Volunteer Fire Department.

Matt Hunter - Driver-Operator (unable to attend)

Mr. Hunter has worked with the City since January 2002. He holds certifications as an Intermediate Firefighter, Intermediate Inspector, Driver-Operator, Fire Officer I, Hazardous Materials Technician and EMT.

Robert Salmons - Fire Inspector (unable to attend)

Mr. Salmons began working with the City in January 2002. He left in 2006 to pursue other interests, but rejoined the Fire Department in 2009. He is certified as an Intermediate Firefighter, Basic Inspector, and EMT.

ROSENBERG DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Building Our Future

Development Corporation Funds Further Enhance Community's Quality of Life

Over the past year, the RDC has contributed a significant amount toward the upkeep and improvement of our public open spaces and community parks. The RDC has expended funds to improve our existing parks as well as to make the newest addition to our park system, the Seabourne Creek Regional Sports Complex, an even more functional and attractive venue. These expenditures have specifically included:

\$100,000 on existing neighborhood parks to demolish unsightly structures with no current or future use; to remove and replace worn fencing; to replace all water fountains to meet ADA standards; to paint all buildings with park-neutral colors; and to provide landscaped, gazebo-style seating areas for park patrons to enjoy.

\$250,000 on field lighting for 3 baseball, 1 softball, and 1 football practice field as part of the first phase of the Seabourne Creek Regional Sports Complex.

\$30,000 for 3,200 linear feet of new trails at Seabourne Creek Nature Park which will further enhance access to the natural areas of the park and encourage greater utilization of the park for health, wellness, education and overall enjoyment by Rosenberg citizens and visitors alike.

\$20,000 for the purchase of trees and installation of an irrigation system by the Coastal Prairie Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists for the 164-acre nature area at Seabourne Creek Park.

In addition to these specific expenditures, the RDC has also added lighting to the basketball courts at Travis Park; installed sidewalk distance markers along SH 36, 4th Street, Louise Street, and Lane Drive; contracted for minor improvements along US 90A, including concrete and railing repair and maintenance; financed bridge cleaning and painting; completed the installation of landscaping improvements at major intersections, including US 59 and SH 36, and US 59 and FM 2218; and enhanced entryway signage – all with the purpose of making Rosenberg an even better place to live, work and do business.

11th Annual Family 4th Independence Day Celebration



Come join us to celebrate our Nation's independence on Sunday, July 4, 2010, at Seabourne Creek Park as we hold our 11th Annual Family 4th Celebration to remember, honor, and celebrate our Nation's heroes.

This year's free event will begin with a horse-drawn wagon procession at 6:00 p.m. The Triumphs will take the stage at 6:30 p.m., and the largest fireworks show in Fort Bend County will begin at approximately 9:15 p.m. - you don't want to miss it!

The Triumphs return in 2010 as the evening's entertainment, and are sure to put on a spectacular show. There will be three (3) draught-horse-drawn wagons offering rides around the park and a children's carnival area which will include fun and games for kiddos of all ages. In addition to the free children's carnival attractions, there will also be a face painter, caricature artist and sand-art booth (each for a small fee). Food and beverage vendors will be on hand to offer plenty of finger-licking, thirst-quenching fare to tempt your pallet and cool you down! Fort Bend's largest fireworks show, produced by AM Pyrotechnics, will kick off a light-up-the-sky tribute to America at approximately 9:15 p.m.

This year, we are proud to announce the inclusion of a "Salute our Soldiers" care package donation drop-off station. There will be cards on hand for event attendees to write notes of appreciation and gratitude to members of our armed forces serving overseas, and we will be accepting donations (details on requested items coming soon) to package and send overseas with the notes after the event.

Watch for more details on the event in the upcoming weeks and mark your calendar to come out to Seabourne Creek Park on the 4th as we join together to honor our nation!



Family 4th would not be possible without the generous support of the whole community. For more information, visit www.RosenbergEvents.com or call (832)595-3525. Sponsorship packages are available by contacting Camille Prat at camillep@ci.rosenberg.tx.us or the afore-mentioned phone number.

**Municipal facilities will be closed Monday, July 5, 2010,
in observance of the Independence Day holiday.**

Garbage WILL BE collected as regularly-scheduled.

All facilities will resume normal operations on Tuesday, July 6, 2010.
Non-emergencies should be directed to police dispatch at (832) 595-3700.

Parma Named April Employee of the Month



Patrick Parma, the City's Streets Supervisor, was named April Employee of the Month. Mr. Parma was nominated by several of his fellow employees for willingly playing the role of Easter Bunny at the City's Annual Easter Egg Hunt.

Patrick has played the Easter Bunny for many years running, and is always a wonderful sport. He gives generously of his time, to the delight of many community kids, by helping start each egg hunt and then posing for pictures with the children in attendance, all of this while wearing a stuffy bunny suit. Throughout the hot, weekend event, Patrick always had a smile on his face (or rather, under his bunny head)!

Patrick's dedication to his job and community is demonstrated by his generosity in donating his weekend time to dress up as the Easter Bunny each year. He is pictured above with Karl Zwahr, Utilities Superintendent; John Maresh, Assistant City Manager; and Jack Hamlett, City Manager.

Way to go, Pat, and thanks for your hard work!

Mosquito Spraying Program

The City's Mosquito Control Program began May 12, and will continue through September 2010. Rosenberg works to control the mosquito population through a City-wide fogging program administered by an independent, third-party contractor. Treatments occur weekly on Wednesdays. The complete spray cycle covers all 125 miles of City streets, between the hours of 9 p.m. and 6 a.m.

The treatments by the City help to lessen the mosquito population, but will not eliminate all mosquitoes. Residents are, therefore, encouraged to take additional steps to help manage the mosquito population by using over-the-counter pesticides to spray yards and in and around bushes; by emptying, covering, or disposing of all outside containers capable of retaining water; by removing discarded tires; by drilling holes in the bottom of recycling containers that are left outside so water will drain; by cleaning roof gutters and removing debris that prevents drainage of rain water; by turning over plastic wading pools and wheelbarrows when not in use; by removing standing water from plastic covers on pools or woodpiles; by changing the water in birdbaths every few days so it won't stagnate; and by keeping swimming pools clean and properly chlorinated.

The City also encourages residents to reduce their exposure to mosquitoes by avoiding outdoor activities at dawn or dusk - the hours mosquitoes are most active; by wearing long-sleeved shirts and long pants; by applying mosquito repellent; by taking special care to cover children's arms and legs; by using mosquito netting to cover baby strollers or playpens; and by repairing holes in window screens and assuring they are tightly attached.

Warm weather and standing water increase the likelihood of mosquitoes and potential exposure to the West Nile Virus. With the precautions mentioned above, residents can help protect themselves from the disease and reduce the mosquito population. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) maintain detailed information on the prevention of West Nile Virus and precautions to take at: www.cdc.gov/westnile/.

Residents with questions regarding the City's mosquito control program should contact Citizen Relations at 832-595-3301.

Firefighters Help Raise Funds for Relay for Life

The American Cancer Society Relay For Life is a life-changing event that gives everyone in communities across the globe a chance to celebrate the lives of people who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost, and fight back against the disease. At Relay, teams of people camp out at a local high school, park, or fairground and take turns walking or running around a track or path. Each team is asked to have a representative on the track at all times during the event. Because cancer never sleeps, Relays are overnight events up to 24 hours in length.

Rosenberg Firefighter, Clint Leopold, held a luncheon fundraiser on May 3, at Rosenberg City Hall, for his American Cancer Society Relay for Life team, Texans Tackling Cancer. Clint and his fellow team members and firefighters prepared a hot dog lunch and accepted donations from City employees. In total, they raised over \$400 at this event. This was a part of his team's fundraising efforts for the American Cancer Society Fort Bend County Relay for Life event scheduled for May 14. Although the event was rained out, it was still a huge fundraising success. The Relay for Life event brought in \$68,000 in total, and out of the 30 teams that participated, Leopold's team came in 4th place, raising just over \$5,700. For more information on the Relay for Life, please visit: www.relayforlife.org.

source: relayforlife.org

JUNE BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS

Nora & Cynthia Dominguez
422 Houston Street

Javier Garza
2804 Madison Avenue

**Our Lady of
Guadalupe Church**
1600 Avenue D

Lydia Segura
1608 Brooks Avenue

Paul & Debbie Turner
2521 Parkway Avenue

United States
**Census
2010**

**Answer the
door and be counted!**

**Census workers will show
proper identification when
visiting your home.*

City of Rosenberg 2009 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report Now Available

The City of Rosenberg has released its 2009 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. As mandated, a copy of the report is included in each utility customer's June bill. The 2009 Report is also available online at www.ci.rosenberg.tx.us.

The City of Rosenberg water system's drinking water meets or exceeds all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) drinking water requirements. The report is a summary of the quality of the water we provide our customers.

Should you have any questions related to the report, please contact the City of Rosenberg Utilities Department at (832) 595-3582.



Image Committee Corner

Tips and resources for enhancing your own little corner of the world...

Start Saving Water

The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) helps educate Texans by providing valuable information about the importance of water conservation in the hopes of motivating the state's citizens to develop a long-term water conservation ethic.

In 50 years, 85 percent of Texas citizens may have some level of water supply shortages during a drought if the state does not conserve its existing water supplies and add new supplies.

Water conservation begins with education. To ensure that our state has adequate water supplies, Texans need to know what resources are required for water planning, treatment, and infrastructure. They also need to know how their own efforts can make a difference.

Become involved and see how simple water conservation can be.

Watch this space over the coming months for tips on conserving water - both indoors and out.

Indoor Conservation

Why? Using water more efficiently will not only save money but, more importantly, will also help protect the quality of life of future Texans.

With the vastness of Texas, it's easy to forget two important facts about our state: we are subject to frequent droughts, and our population is projected to double in the next 50 years. The cost of developing new or additional water supplies in that same time period is estimated to be \$30.7 billion.

To ensure that we have enough water for current and future Texans, we need to reduce the amount of water we waste.

Tips in the Kitchen

* Run the dishwasher only when full.

* Install faucet aerators. You'll never notice the difference, and you'll cut your sink water consumption in half!

* Keep a container of water in the refrigerator. It will be refreshingly cool and won't waste water.

* Dry scrape dishes instead of rinsing. Your dishwasher will take care of the rest.

* Use garbage disposals sparingly. They can waste water unnecessarily.

Source & for more tips, visit:
<http://www.wateriq.org/ssw/index.htm>



Installation of Water Reuse Line to Seabourne Creek Park Underway



City contractors have begun work to install a water reuse line from Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) #2 on Fairgrounds Road to the Seabourne Creek Regional Sports Complex. Reuse water from WWTP #2 will be utilized to irrigate the new fields and sports complex property. The project, undertaken as a means by which to reduce potable water usage for irrigation, was facilitated by a recent plant expansion and upgrade at WWTP #2.

Using reuse water for irrigation allows the City to earn surface water conversion credits toward Fort Bend Subsidence District conversion requirements, and reduces drinking water demand from our existing groundwater resources. Approximately 7,500 feet of purple reuse pipe is currently being laid along an existing utility easement that runs from WWTP #2, between Lowe's and the National Guard Armory, to Seabourne Creek Park. The line transports treated water from the plant to a storage pond near the new sports complex, from which the property and fields will be irrigated.

The approximately \$1 million project was funded through bonds. System capacity was designed to be adequate to handle all of the existing park amenities and to be able to be expanded to possibly meet other athletic facility irrigation needs with reuse water in the future (for example, B.F. Terry H.S. and/or Lamar H.S.), further reducing the demand on our water system.

RPD Reminds Citizens to take Proactive Actions to Deter Crime

Over the last few weeks/months, the City has seen an increase in burglaries of vehicles and homes. As summer approaches, the Rosenberg Police Department (RPD) would like to remind all citizens to take precautions to prevent theft of valuables and property. The Department works continually to ensure our citizens' life and property is protected and to apprehend criminals. By taking individual precautions however, citizens can help to further deter burglaries and other crimes. Be proactive and follow the tips included below - you can help keep yourself from becoming a victim of these crimes!

Vehicles

Remove all valuables when you exit your vehicle, leaving nothing in plain view. Always lock all of your vehicle doors. Don't stash cash or other valuables in your vehicle. Do not hide valuables under your vehicle seats. Although it is strongly discouraged, if you must leave valuables in the trunk of your vehicle, place them there BEFORE leaving for your destination; do not wait until you arrive to do so.

Residences

Keep all doors and windows closed and securely fastened. Doors should have deadbolt locks with at least a one-inch throw and a reinforced strike plate secured with three-inch screws. Windows should have window locks. Secure sliding glass doors by placing a metal rod or piece of plywood in the tracks and installing vertical bolts. Always lock the door to an attached garage. Keep the perimeter of your home well lighted. Keep shrubbery trimmed around entrances and walkways. Organize a community watch program to help protect your neighborhood. If you will be gone for an extended period, never leave clues you are away on a trip. Create the illusion that you are at home by using lights on timers, radios or televisions. Have a trusted neighbor or friend collect newspapers and mail when you are gone. Keep some shades and blinds up and curtains open to maintain a normal, everyday appearance. Never leave a message on your answering machine, or post anything online telling people you are away from your home.

Always, if you see anything suspicious, or feel like the security of your home or vehicle may have been compromised, call the Police Department at 832-595-3700 (non-emergencies) or 911 (emergencies ONLY). Working together, RPD and Rosenberg citizens can help ensure our community stays safe.

HOT Summer Concerts Performers Schedule Announced

The City of Rosenberg is proud to announce the 2010 HOT Summer Concert Series. Join us in our Historic Downtown District on Fridays in July and August to share an evening with old friends and take time to make new ones. Bring your family and friends, and don't forget your chairs! Come early to check out what downtown merchants have to offer, grab a bite to eat, and then settle in for concerts that are sure to get you smiling and toe-tapping! Concerts will be held weekly in Butler's 3rd Street Park (between Avenues F & G) on Fridays at 7:00 p.m. and will run from July 9 to August 6. They are underwritten by the Rosenberg Convention and Visitors Bureau and generously sponsored by Bill Butler*. We'll see you there!

July 9 - The Level One Band - With their "get-down" style of Motown, vintage soul, disco, classic rock, jazz and pop, this serious party band with a presence that "provokes the senses", is a band you won't want to miss!

July 16 - The Coastliners - The Coastliners pride themselves on creative and precise musical arrangements and tight four-part harmonies that distinguish them as one of the premier vocal groups in the nation.

July 23 - Third Coast Swing - Come enjoy the sounds of Big Band, Swing, Ballroom and Jazz and do a little dancin' in the streets with Houston's favorite swinging sensation.

July 30 - Sugar Land Brass Company* - This 5-piece, "DEEP DISH" Chicago-style rhythm & blues revue band is a real crowd pleaser!

August 6 - The MoFo Party Band* - Considered one of the best blues bands on the West Coast. Come experience this California band's retro look, stage show, and lively blues.

Visit RosenbergEvents.com or call (832)595-3525 for more information.

ROSENBERG DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Building Our Future

Rosenberg Transit Opportunities Abound

In the recent RDC Transit and Pedestrian Study conducted by Traffic Engineers, Inc., it was found that although Rosenberg residents are one of the biggest users of existing Fort Bend County Transit services, there is a lack of community-wide awareness about the many options currently available for public transit in our community. Fort Bend County administers transit funding and programs through its Public Transportation Department, created in 2005 to "provide residents with safe and efficient public transportation services while maintaining service quality and customer satisfaction". The County currently operates several public transit programs available to Rosenberg residents including the following:

Demand Response Service is a **shared ride bus service** offered to citizens of Fort Bend County. This service provides trips within Fort Bend County and to the Texas Medical Center and the Veterans Administration Hospital. To schedule or cancel a ride, you must call (866)751-TRIP between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and ask for "Fort Bend County Reservations". Residents should be prepared to give their full name, home address, pick-up location and telephone number, destination address and their requested pick-up/appointment time when they call. There are no services on County holidays and rides are typically scheduled for first "destination" drop-off by 8 a.m. and last pick-up no later than 5 p.m. Trip fares for this service are \$1.00 per person, each way. This is a curb-to-curb service and passengers should be ready for pick-up 15 minutes before their scheduled time. Persons with disabilities may request door-to-door service.

Commuter Services, known as the TREK EXPRESS, are currently offered into the Greenway Plaza and Galleria areas of Houston, with pick-up at the University of Houston-Sugar Land (University Blvd. at US-59) and AMC 24 Theatre (Sweetwater Blvd. at US-59) parking lots. Service runs Monday to Friday, with buses leaving between 5:10 and 8:10 a.m. and returning between 3:15 and 6:40 p.m. at 15 to 20-minute intervals. Route stops at Greenway Plaza and Uptown/Galleria are available on the County website or by calling the office. Fares vary for this service from \$1.00 to \$2.25 one-way, depending on departure point and destination.

Beginning June 1, 2010, Fort Bend County will introduce the Fort Bend Express which will provide commuter service to the Texas Medical Center and the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center from a park-and-ride location at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds (4310 S. Highway 36 South). The service will leave the locations between 5:05 and 8:10 a.m. arriving at the Medical Center between 6:00 and 9:10 a.m. Return trips will leave the Medical Center between 3:45 and 7:22 p.m. and will arrive at the park and ride locations between 4:42 and 8:17 p.m. A mid-day route will run round trip between 10:55 a.m. and 1:29 p.m. Preliminary routes will run in June and a final route will be set after reviewing June ridership and usage. Fare for this service is \$3.50 one-way. Ticket books are available for purchase at a 10% discounted rate and may be purchased at the County Public Transportation Department located at 12550 Emily Court, Suite 400, Sugar Land.

New Freedom Transportation services for people with disabilities living in rural areas of Fort Bend County are available through a grant awarded to Fort Bend County by the State to support new public transportation services and public transportation alternatives beyond those required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. The first phase of this program provides reserved bus service in the mornings and afternoons, Mondays through Saturdays (excluding County holidays). Although there is a route schedule, clients must call and make reservations for each trip. Riders in need of assistance may be accompanied by one attendant at no charge. To access this service, **prior to the first use**, individuals or their guardians **must register** with Fort Bend Transit by completing and submitting a registration form available online, in the office, or by calling (281)633-RIDE, or (866)751-TRIP, or emailing Transit@co.fort-bend.tx.us. The fare for this service is \$1.00 each way.

For more information on existing public transportation programs and services, please visit the County Public Transportation Department's website (below), call (281)633-RIDE or (866)751-TRIP, or email Transit@co.fort-bend.tx.us.

Have you ever wondered how much money you save by using public transportation?
Now you can calculate your savings - to the penny - by using APTA's new Transit Calculator available at:
<http://www.apta.com/members/memberprogramsandservices/advocacyandoutreachtools/Pages/TransitCalculator.aspx>.

Source: Fort Bend County Public Transportation website available at:
<http://www.co.fort-bend.tx.us/getSitePage.asp?sitePage=23544>

Hurricane Season is Here... Don't Be Caught Unprepared



Smart planning for hurricane evacuations means making your plans NOW, before storms threaten our area. Hurricanes are dangerous and unpredictable. They can get much stronger, and change directions, in a matter of hours. A **hurricane watch** means a hurricane is about 36 hours away. A **hurricane warning** means a hurricane will hit your area within 24 hours.

The Texas Division of Emergency Management provides the following tips for preparing yourself for hurricane season:

- When a hurricane threatens your area, evacuating is the smartest move. When local officials call for an evacuation, get out without delay. When there's a hurricane in the Gulf of Mexico, fill your gas tank and keep it full.
- Plan for emergencies with your family. Make your evacuation plan now. Choose a place to call and a place to meet. Discuss your plans with family, friends and relatives before hurricane season begins (June 1). Review them and remind others of the plan as storms move in.
- Emergencies and disasters can happen anytime. Keep supplies on hand in your home, office, and car - especially during hurricane season. Begin assembling an emergency supply kit now. If you have one already, double check it and make sure water and other supplies are fresh. Keep a NOAA weather radio and batteries in your kit.
- Hurricanes are dangerous and unpredictable. Make special plans for babies, the elderly, and medically-fragile family members. Make sure your emergency kit includes supplies and equipment for special health care needs. Leave early with fragile family members - don't wait for the official evacuation to begin.
- Make a checklist of what you need to do before you leave your home, and review it.
- Make sure you and your family members have the name and phone number of a friend or relative outside your city or state, so that anyone who becomes separated from your group can telephone to let others know their situation.
- If you plan to stay in a hotel or motel, make reservations and confirm them before you leave.
- Keep highway maps in your car, and learn the evacuation routes from your area before the storm season begins. If possible, drive the route to familiarize yourself with it before a hurricane hits. In an evacuation, traffic congestion is inevitable, so expect delays and longer drive times than in normal situations. Don't make traffic worse. If you wait until the mandatory evacuation, take only one vehicle.
- Learn places to stay between your home and your destination in case you have to stop before you reach your final destination.
- Contact your local county emergency management office to get information about anyone in your household who may need special assistance during an evacuation. You may also want to consider registering information about your family's special needs with the local emergency management office.
- Make plans for your pets and livestock.

By following the above guidelines, you can help protect yourself and your family during hurricane season.

Source: www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem

For more information on disaster preparedness, visit
Rosenberg's emergency response website:

www.RosenbergResponds.com



Martinez Named May Employee of the Month

Val Martinez, the City's Chief Mechanic in Fleet Maintenance since September 2009, was named May Employee of the Month. Mr. Martinez was nominated for the extra time and effort he put in to getting a much-needed piece of fire apparatus back on to the streets. Through his efforts, he was able to cut City costs and to get a very important piece of equipment back into service.

His diligence in completing the extensive repair not only significantly lessened the amount of time the engine was out of service, but also contributed to the level of protection the Rosenberg Fire Department is able to provide to its citizens. Val is pictured at right with City Manager Jack Hamlett and Cyndy Powell, Assistant to the City Manager.



Congratulations, Val, and thanks for your hard work and dedication!

Computer Recycling Made Easy

Think twice before you throw your old computer away!

Used computer equipment is a rapidly-growing source of waste in Texas and across the country. The EPA estimates that in 2007, over 40 million computers became obsolete, more than doubling the 20 million computers that became obsolete in 1998. While these computers contain valuable resources that can be reused or recycled, rates for reusing and recycling used computer equipment have remained low historically.

Texas consumers are now able to have their used computer equipment collected and recycled for free. The law requires manufacturers offering to sell new computer equipment in or into Texas to provide a program for collecting and recycling of consumers' used computer equipment.

Since Sept. 1, 2008, manufacturers have had to provide a program. Each manufacturer is responsible only for its own brand(s) of computer equipment. The collection and recycling must be convenient and free at the time of recycling. The rules define computer equipment as: a monitor, a desktop computer or laptop, and an accompanying keyboard and mouse made by the same manufacturer.

The manufacturers are required to offer collection and recycling only for computer equipment purchased primarily for personal or home-business use—regardless of when it was sold; that is, not just computer equipment purchased after Sept. 1, 2008.

By law, the individual disposing of the computer will be responsible for any confidential information left on the computer equipment.



Visit the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's web site listed below to view a list of manufacturers that are participating in this program. If you are interested in recycling your computer equipment, check your manufacturer's web site to see what recycling options they currently offer. Or consider other recycling resources available on TCEQ's web site, Recycle Texas Online (<http://www5.tceq.state.tx.us/rtol/>), or 1-800-CLEANUP (www.cleanup.org).

If you have further questions about the TCEQ's Computer Equipment Recycling Program, send an e-mail to: recycle@tceq.state.tx.us or call 512-239-3143.

Source: www.tceq.state.tx.us/assistance/P2Recycle/electronics/computer-recycling.html

JULY BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS

William & Virginia Bennett
3202 Avenue P

Tillie Leick & Ginny Kelm Sitka
1310 Stevens Ct.

Jonathan & Tammy Lev
1203 Klare Ave.

David & Karen Natho
1210 Walger Ave.

Dorothy Ryan
1722 Bernie Ave.

Fort Bend Herald
1902 4th Street

Isabel Medina
1218 Grunwald Heights Blvd.

HOT Summer Concerts

Join us in our Historic Downtown District on Fridays in July and August to share an evening with old friends and take time to make new ones. Bring your family and friends, and don't forget your chairs! Come early to check out what downtown merchants have to offer, grab a bite to eat, and then settle in for concerts that are sure to get you smiling and toe-tapping!

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July 30 - Sugar Land Brass Company*

August 6 - The MoFo Party Band*

Visit RosenbergEvents.com or call (832)595-3525 for more information.



Image Committee Corner

Tips and resources for enhancing your own little corner of the world...

Start Saving Water II

In 50 years, 85 percent of Texas citizens may have some level of water supply shortages during a drought if the state does not conserve its existing water supplies and add new supplies.

Become involved and see how simple water conservation can be.

Watch this space over the coming months for tips on conserving water - both indoors and out.

Outdoor Tips

* One inch of water per week in the summer will keep most Texas grasses healthy. To determine how long you should run your sprinklers, place straight-edged cans at different distances away from the sprinkler and time how long it takes to fill an average of 1 inch of water in each can.

* Don't abuse the benefits of an automatic sprinkler system by over-watering. Set it to provide thorough but infrequent watering. Check sprinkler heads regularly to make sure they are working properly. Install rain shutoff devices and adjust sprinklers to eliminate coverage on pavement.

* Prevent evaporation of water. Water lawns early in the morning or in the evening during the hotter summer months. Never water on windy days. Use drip irrigation systems for bedded plants, trees, or shrubs and use low-angle sprinklers for lawns. Cover pools and spas. This can save the equivalent of your pool volume each year!

* Plant water-efficient, well-adapted, and/or native shrubs, trees, and grasses. Choose plants that are drought and heat tolerant and can survive the minimum winter temperatures in your area. In odd-shaped areas, use drought-tolerant groundcover instead of grass. Many cities provide lists of water-efficient plants.

* Buy a rain barrel or a cistern and collect the water from your gutters to water your plants.

* Use your water efficiently. Don't waste water by cleaning patios or sidewalks with it; use a broom. For plants that need more water, use a hose or watering can to give them additional water.

* Keep grass 3 inches tall during the summer and don't cut more than one-third of its length at one time. Don't scalp lawns when mowing during hot weather. Taller grass holds moisture better. Leave lawn clippings on the lawn instead of bagging.

Source :

<http://www.wateriq.org/ssw/index.htm>



Bamore Road Construction Project Underway

Work began in mid-June on Phase II of the Bamore Road Widening Project. Gonzalez Construction of Rosenberg is the City's contractor for the project which will include road widening and drainage improvements from Bernard Avenue to just north of Southgate Drive. When complete, Phase II of the project will consist of a widened, three-lane concrete roadway with curb and gutter. Bamore will have a designated center turn lane and concrete sidewalks down the east side of the road. The section of roadway directly in front of Bowie Elementary will have sidewalks along both sides.

Intersections that will be reconstructed as part of the project include Elizabeth Avenue, Grunwald Heights Boulevard, Wilburn Street, Brooks Avenue, Reinhard Street, Magnolia Drive and Southgate Drive.

Property owners will have access to their properties; however, through-traffic will be limited during the construction period. Drivers are advised to exercise caution in this area, to plan their travel accordingly, and to use established detour routes. The City will begin work on the section of Bamore near Bowie Elementary so that it may be reopened to through-traffic for the start of next school year. The Bamore Road Phase II Road Widening Project is expected to be complete by spring 2011.

For general questions, please contact Citizen Relations at 832-595-3301. Affected residents within the construction area may submit specific questions to Melissa Peña, Project Director, at the City Hall Annex Building (2220 4th Street), or by calling 832-595-3500. After-hours emergency calls related to the project should be directed to Police Dispatch at 832-595-3700.

Certificates of Occupancy 101

A Certificate of Occupancy, also referred to as a C of O, is a document that is issued to the tenant, property owner, or builder of a property after all necessary inspections of the property have been completed and approved. These inspections are required in order to ensure that the property is in compliance with adopted International Codes (building codes) and the Rosenberg Code of Ordinances.

Certificates of Occupancy help ensure that a property has been built to the minimum safety standards and within widely-accepted practices of the building industry. The International Codes provide minimum safeguards for people at home, at school and in the workplace. They are a complete set of comprehensive, coordinated building safety and fire prevention codes. Building codes benefit public safety and support the industry's need for one set of codes without regional limitations. By having a property inspected and a C of O issued, one is not only complying with local ordinances, but helping to ensure the safety of the occupants of the building including family, co-workers, and/or tenants.

Anyone that is planning on occupying a new home, a new commercial building or structure, or a new business in an existing building or structure, with the exception of an existing home, is required to obtain a C of O. The adopted International Codes (2006), Section R110.1, states that, "No building or structure shall be used or occupied, and no change in the existing occupancy classification of a building or structure or portion thereof shall be made until the Building Official has issued a certificate of occupancy therefor as provided herein."

Before a C of O can be issued for a new home or a new commercial building, all rough-in and final inspections for building, electrical, mechanical and plumbing, must be completed and approved by a City of Rosenberg building inspector.

Additionally, for new commercial buildings or new businesses occupying existing buildings, the Fire Marshal's approval must be obtained in order for a C of O to be issued. Currently, the Fire Marshal's approval is not required for the construction of one- and two-family dwellings. For further information related to these requirements, please contact the Fire Marshal's office at 832-595-3600.

Final departmental approval must be received from Planning, Public Works, Code Enforcement and the Fire Marshal before a final C of O can be issued by Code Enforcement. The process for obtaining a Certificate of Occupancy is facilitated by the City's Code Enforcement office. Please contact them with any questions related to Certificates of Occupancy and the building inspections process at 832-595-3500.

ROSENBERG DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Building Our Future

RDC Commits Additional Dollars to Improve Community Park Space

The Rosenberg Development Corporation has committed \$100,000 toward new park improvement projects in 2010. These improvements are aimed at increasing the quality of life in our neighborhoods and community, and making Rosenberg a more attractive location for future commercial investment. The City's neighborhood parks are a source of pride and enjoyment for many residents, and the RDC seeks to support the City's desire to provide amenities for all residents.

As a pilot project, the RDC will fund the installation of additional lighting for the basketball courts at Travis Park, along with a new walking trail that will be approximately one-quarter mile long. The trail will wind around the park area and provide residents of all ages a safe and scenic opportunity to exercise. Dirt berms will also be included to improve the aesthetics of the park.

In order to install the trail, RDC funds will also be used for an engineering study designed to improve drainage in the park, with the goal of eliminating standing water after rainstorms. A total of \$50,000 has been committed to the Travis Park Project, which should be completed by the end of the year.

Another major project is the support of the efforts of the Coastal Prairie Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists in Seabourne Creek Nature Park. In 2009, the City Council authorized the Master Naturalists to begin a program of prairie restoration in Seabourne Creek Park. This process involves reclaiming land that had once been cleared for cotton fields, through the use of native grasses and trees. The RDC entered into an agreement with the Master Naturalists to provide trees and materials for an irrigation system at a cost of \$20,000. To date, the Master Naturalists have utilized their expertise and over one hundred (100) volunteers from a local church to plant eighty-two (82) trees.

The RDC has committed \$30,000 to extend the trail system in Seabourne Creek Park in order to make the wetlands area more accessible, and to improve the opportunity to more fully view and appreciate the prairie restoration area.

Next time you visit a City park, take a minute to note the many positive changes that are occurring!

Proposed FY2011 City Budget Presented to Council

Jack Hamlett, Rosenberg City Manager, in accordance with Texas Statute and the City Charter, presented the proposed Annual Budget for the upcoming fiscal year (October 1, 2010, through September 30, 2011) to Council for their consideration at the July 27 Rosenberg City Council Workshop. The City's budget serves as a policy document for the City, establishing community priorities, goals and programs for the upcoming fiscal year. The budget contains appropriations necessary to achieve specific service levels, functions and activities essential to the accomplishment of the City's stated mission:

To provide citizens with an enhanced quality of life through public service that ensures the continuance of our small town values while maintaining standards of accountability and open-mindedness that are ethically and consistently applied.

This year's proposed budget implements numerous expenditure reductions to compensate for the financial impacts brought on by the economic slowdown which has impacted the City's revenues including sales tax, property tax, Municipal Court fines, and construction-related fees. Although short-term community growth has slowed, the demand for city services continues to increase along with staff workload.

The FY2011 Proposed Budget provides for the provision of necessary public services within available financial resources. Its recommendations are designed to provide for the needs of Rosenberg citizens as well as employees of the City. It is a very conservative budget that balances the necessity of maintaining municipal services while balancing decreasing revenues. The FY2011 Proposed Budget is very lean, but functional. It maintains the required and adequate reserve amounts for the end of FY2011. The total Proposed FY2011 Budget (excluding Capital Projects) is \$42,409,684 (\$546,988 or 1.3% less than FY2010).

The City's General Fund includes the provision of funding for basic services and debt service obligations for capital improvements. Its primary revenue sources are local sales tax and City property taxes. Overall, the Proposed FY2011 General Fund Budget projects revenues of \$20,737,060 (a decrease of 1.6% from FY2010), and proposes expenditures of \$21,440,509 (a 2.5% decrease from FY2010). Based on preliminary Fort Bend Central Appraisal District (CAD) figures for FY2011, the total property tax valuation is expected to decrease (due partially to the number of outstanding protests). Staff therefore, has not projected any increase in property tax revenues in the Proposed FY2011 Budget. Preliminary property valuations indicate that the Effective Tax Rate (the rate that would provide the City about the same amount of revenue received the previous year, on properties taxed in both years), will need to increase above the existing rate of \$0.50 adopted in 2009. Final CAD numbers will not be available until sometime in August. The FY2011 Proposed Budget continues the City's 1% Homestead Exemption previously adopted by City Council.

Because of the economic slowdown, the City's sales tax revenue for FY2010 has remained level with that of FY2009. The projection for FY2011 has been reduced by \$90,000 (a 1% decrease) from the FY2010 Budget. Additionally, projected Municipal Court revenues have been adjusted down by \$102,600 for FY2011 (a 12% reduction).

Article continued on page 3...

Municipal facilities will be closed Monday, September 6, 2010, for Labor Day.

GARBAGE WILL NOT BE COLLECTED ON MONDAY, but will instead be picked up the next regularly-scheduled service day, Thursday, September 9.

All facilities will resume normal operations on Tuesday, September 7, 2010. Non-emergencies should be directed to police dispatch at (832) 595-3700.

Annual Sales Tax Holiday Stretches Back-to-School Budgets

School children will soon head back to the classroom; and Texas' annual Sales Tax Holiday will help outfit kids with tax-free clothes, shoes and school supplies they need for the new school year.

"From Aug. 20-22, shoppers will pay no state or local sales tax on many school supplies, school backpacks and most children's and adults' clothing and shoes priced at less than \$100," Texas Comptroller Susan Combs said. "As our economy continues to recover, this tax break will help families get more bang for their back-to-school bucks."

This year, Combs predicts shoppers will save \$59.3 million in state and local sales taxes during the Sales Tax Holiday, which takes place each year on the third Friday, Saturday and Sunday in August.



The tax holiday weekend has been an annual event since 1999.

To help families plan to make the most of the Sales Tax Holiday, lists of tax-free apparel and school supplies can be found on the Comptroller's website at http://www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/taxpubs/tx98_490/tx98_490.html.

Source: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts - 1-800-252-5555

July Employees of the Month Recognized for Family 4th Efforts

Seven (7) City employees shared the honor of being named July Employees of the Month. Pictured below (from left to right) are Paul Rodgers, Parks Supervisor; Angela Fritz, Communications Director; Lydia Acosta, Recreation Programs Coordinator; Carolyn Kagy, Civic Center Manager; Camille Prat, Marketing/Tourism Assistant; and Aaron Slater, Patrol Lieutenant; with City Manager Jack Hamlett. Not pictured is Darren McCarthy, Parks and Recreation Director.

These employees were nominated for their efforts in coordinating the City's Family 4th Independence Day Celebration. In addition to months of planning ahead of time, these individuals each put in long hours the day of the event, along with crews from across the City, to ensure everything ran smoothly.

Thanks for your hard work and dedication!



Thank You 2010 Family 4th Sponsors

This year's Family 4th event was better than ever, thanks to the tremendous amount of local support received from sponsors including:

Platinum: City of Richmond and NewQuest Properties.

Gold: Gurecky Manufacturing Service, Inc.; Jones & Carter, Inc.; and Republic Services, Inc.

Silver: Kelly R. Kaluza & Associates, Inc.; Legacy Ford; Milton Brenner VFW Post 3903 & Ladies Auxiliary; Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins & Mott, LLP; and Seatex Ltd.

Bronze: Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP; Amegy Bank; Bass Construction Company; Biotics Research Corporation; CL Realty; Ed deZavallos & David Edgar; Fort Bend County Judge Bob Hebert; IDC Engineering; La Casona Mexican Restaurant; Landtech Consultants, Inc.; Las Noticias de Fort Bend; OakBend Physical Therapy; Royal Neighbors of America; Schwartz, Page & Harding, LLP; and SouthWest Water Company.



Friends of the Festival: Ace Hardware-Rosenberg; American Legion Auxiliary Unit 271; Anco-Wessendorf Insurance; Another Time Soda Fountain & Café; Carolyn & Neil Banfield; Carol & Karl Baumgartner; Benjamin Franklin Plumbing; Bob's Taco Station; Danziger Investment Company; Davis-Greenlawn; Dostal's Designs; Elge, Inc.; GreenScape Associates; LJA Engineering, Inc.; McNutt Electric; Mayor & Mrs. Hilmar G. Moore; Ray Glass Company, Inc.; TF Harper & Associates; TRC Engineering; Texas Cowboy Church; Dr. & Mrs. Larry Wilkinson; Gina Foster; Jack & Liz Hamlett; and Lamar Meadows, Jr., DDS.

Donations for the City's 2010 event totaled \$35,550!

Rosenberg's Family 4th Independence Day Celebration is underwritten by the Rosenberg Convention and Visitors Bureau. For more information, please call 832-595-3525.

AUGUST BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS

Andrew & Patricia Kuba
1027 Klare Avenue

Charles & Carol Lindemann
1129 Tobola Street

Ben & Dorothy Rogge
2605 Cedar Lane

Alejandro & Amalia Salinas
1820 Old Creek Road

Dale & Mary Ann Wolfing
3620 Avenue P

Robert & Mary Glover
2615 B.F. Terry Boulevard

Mosquito Control Program

The City will continue its ongoing mosquito control program through September 2010. The at-least-weekly fogging covers all 125 miles of City streets.

The City has allocated approximately \$23,000 toward this program for FY2010. City officials are monitoring the situation and adjusting treatments as necessary.

Although these treatments help lessen the infestation, they cannot eliminate all mosquitoes. Residents are encouraged to take additional steps to help reduce the mosquito population including using over-the-counter pesticides and emptying, covering or disposing of all outside containers capable of retaining water. Residents are also encouraged to lessen their exposure to mosquitoes by avoiding outdoor activities at dawn or dusk and by applying mosquito repellent. Please see the June 2010 INSIDER article for further tips.

For further information regarding the City's program, please contact the Citizen Relations Coordinator at (832) 595-3301. Additionally, the Centers for Disease Control maintains detailed information on the prevention of West Nile Virus at www.cdc.gov/westnile/.



Texas Local Property Tax Basics

The Texas local property tax is just that - a local tax, assessed locally, collected locally and used locally. Local property tax is the largest single funding source for community services including public schools, city streets, county roads, police and fire protection and other vital programs. The governing body of each local government determines the amount of property taxes it needs to raise and sets its own tax rate.

Once appraisal records are approved, the chief appraiser of each County Appraisal District prepares an appraisal roll for each taxing unit. At this point, the taxing units must decide what services they will provide in the coming year and how much money they will need to cover these costs. The adopted tax rate for each taxing unit is the rate required to raise the necessary funds to cover these expenses based on the appraisal roll.

Taxing units hold budget hearings to discuss what services to provide in the coming year and how to pay for them. Concerned taxpayers should attend these hearings. If a governing body wants to increase its property tax rate above the effective or rollback rate, it must publish a quarter-page notice in a local newspaper, announcing special public hearings related thereto. These hearings give taxpayers an opportunity to voice their opinions about the proposed increase and ask questions of the governing body. Before the hearing's end, the governing body must set a date, time and place for the tax rate's formal adoption. The taxing unit then publishes another quarter-page ad announcing the meeting to adopt the tax rate.

"Truth-in-taxation" laws give taxpayers a voice in decisions affecting their property tax rates. The Effective Tax Rate would provide the taxing unit with about the same revenue it received in the previous year, on properties taxed in both years. If property values rise, the effective rate will go down, and vice versa. The Rollback Tax Rate, by contrast, would provide the taxing unit with about the same amount of tax revenue it spent the previous year for day-to-day operations, plus an extra 8% for operating money and sufficient funds to pay its debts in the coming year.

At print time, budget hearing dates have not yet been set for the City because the final appraisal roll from the Fort Bend Central Appraisal District has not yet been received. It is expected sometime in August.

Please contact the City Secretary's Office at (832) 595-3340 for meeting dates and agendas or visit www.ci.rosenberg.tx.us.

Source: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts - www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax/



Continued - Proposed FY2011 City Budget Presented to Council

The Proposed Budget includes two hundred and twenty-two (222) full-time positions, down from two hundred and thirty-seven (237) in FY2010. Given this 7% reduction in the overall number of employees, the City's goal is to provide the same amount of service to its citizens. Both the Fire and Police Departments are experiencing an increase in the number of service calls received. Therefore, the Proposed FY2011 Budget makes it a priority to maintain Public Safety staffing and service levels in order to provide adequate Police and Fire protection for Rosenberg residents. It is realistic, however, given the higher demand on the fewer number of employees in other service areas, to expect that the provision of some services may be slower than residents are currently accustomed to. There are no merit pay increases included in the FY2011 budget for any employee, however, the estimated 6.3% increase in the City's health insurance plan will be covered in the budget along with the funding of catch-up provisions for the Texas Municipal Retirement System to cover future retiree benefits.

Additionally, the Proposed FY2011 Budget maintains the City's commitment to continue its aggressive capital improvements program with "roll-over" funding included for: Bamore Road; the Seabourne Creek Drainage Project; the Dry Creek Drainage Project; FM 2218; the Seabourne Creek Park Water Reuse Project; Reading Road and Allwright Street Drainage; Homestead Subdivision Drainage; the Blume Road Project; Spacek Road Intersection Relocation; and North Side Sewer Improvements - Phase V.

In previous years, Water and Wastewater revenues were not adequate to cover both the Fund's operating expenditures and debt service obligations, however, the proposed FY2011 Water/Wastewater Fund Budget is a balanced one in which the proposed revenues will exceed the combined operating expenditures and debt service payments for the second consecutive year. The total Proposed FY2011 Water/Wastewater Fund Budget is \$8,321,878, reflecting a decrease of \$476,111 (5.4%) from FY2010. Although the Water/Wastewater Fund has improved significantly, it continues to be underfunded to meet future infrastructure needs. The City will need to continue to adjust rates to make the Fund self-supporting and cover costs associated with the surface water conversion project and continued capital improvements. Until the 2015 deadline for groundwater reduction, the City will need to continue annual increases in water and wastewater rates.

In the past, the City depended on a portion of the property tax revenue to subsidize debt obligations for the Water/Wastewater Fund. Since this fund is now self-supporting, and due to the fact that the City has retired some higher interest debt service obligations, the City is able to reduce the debt service portion of the property tax rate from \$0.27 in FY2010 to \$0.265 in FY2011. The additional \$0.005 was shifted in the Proposed FY2011 Budget to support the City's annual maintenance and operating expenditures instead of debt service obligations. This assists in maintaining a reasonable property tax rate adequate to support City services. The reduction in the debt service portion of the property tax rate is especially notable, given the fact that the City's annual debt service obligations have increased approximately \$2,000,000 since 2007.

The biggest challenge the City faces for FY2011 is maintaining the proposed budget within projected revenues as it strives to meet the increasing service needs of an expanding Rosenberg community. Now that staff has provided City Council with the Proposed FY2011 Budget, it becomes Council's charge to review the information provided, set the overall property tax rate, and determine the level of services to be provided to Rosenberg citizens in FY2011.

Council will consider the Proposed FY2011 Budget in workshop sessions on Saturday, August 7, 2010, beginning at 8 a.m. at the Civic Center (3825 Highway 36 South) and again on Thursday, August 12, 2010, at 6 p.m. at Rosenberg City Hall Council Chamber (2110 4th Street).

Interested individuals may view a copy of the FY2011 Proposed Budget in the City Secretary's office. For more information on public meetings, please visit www.ci.rosenberg.tx.us, or call the City Secretary's Office at (832)595-3340.

ROSENBERG DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Building Our Future

Bamore Road Reconstruction Project



Seabourne Creek Nature Park Enhancements



Welcome Sign Enhancements



Transportation Gateway Improvements

***Rosenberg is a great place to live, work and do business,
and the RDC is helping pave the way...***



Seabourne Creek
Regional Sports Complex Lighting



National Oilwell Varco Relocation



Neighborhood Park
Improvements



Seatex, Ltd. Relocation



Reading Road Interchange Construction
2000



Brazos Town Center Development

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September 2010

Rosenberg INSIDER

National Night Out Scheduled for Tuesday, October 5

Public safety officers from the Rosenberg Police and Fire Departments will join residents, City officials and members of Fort Bend County EMS and Life Flight to celebrate National Night Out (NNO) - America's Night Out Against Crime - on Tuesday, October 5, 2010. Communities across Texas will join forces for the 27th annual crime and drug prevention event. National Night Out is sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch and the Rosenberg Police Department. This year's event is also being supported in part by TARGET®, a national corporate sponsor.

NNO was organized by the National Association of Town Watch in 1984. The evening is designed to: heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime effort; strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and send a message to criminals letting them know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back. Last year's event involved 36.7 million people in 14,625 communities from all 50 states.

From 7 p.m., residents in neighborhoods throughout Rosenberg are asked to lock their doors, turn on outside lights and spend the evening outside with neighbors and police. National Project Coordinator Matt Peskin said, *"This is a night for America to stand together to promote awareness, safety and neighborhood unity. National Night Out showcases the vital importance of police-community partnerships and citizen involvement in our fight to build a safer nation. On NNO, we invite neighborhoods nationwide to join us in giving crime and drugs a going away party."*

Rosenberg's National Night Out will include neighborhood block parties throughout the City, and a business merchants event at Brazos Town Center. Individuals interested in organizing or hosting a neighborhood block party should contact RPD at 832-595-3710 and ask to speak with Lt. Slater.

The merchants event will be held in the TARGET® parking lot; Life Flight, Fort Bend County EMS, the Rosenberg Fire Department, and the Rosenberg Police Department will be out in force to give demonstrations and tours of equipment and to visit with Rosenberg residents and merchants. The event at Brazos Town Center will begin at 7 p.m. and continue until dark. The night will include demonstrations with the RPD canine unit, tours of the Rosenberg Fire Department's Fire Safety House, and other children's activities. Many Brazos Town Center merchants will have goodies for the crowd to enjoy.



According to RPD Lt. Colin Davidson, *"The main objective of the business merchants portion of the Rosenberg National Night Out activities is to encourage merchants to meet one another and generate discussions and relationships, through which they can share important information about crime prevention and risk abatement."*



For more information on National Night Out, please visit www.nationalnightout.org.
For information on the Rosenberg event, please contact the RPD at 832-595-3710.

Fort Bend Women's Center Needs Your Help!

The Rosenberg Police Department is kicking off a two-week donation drive benefiting the Fort Bend County Women's Center, a non-profit organization assisting survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and their children. Donations of gently used clothing (women's, men's and children's), dishware, shoes, linens, accessories, jewelry, electronics, sporting goods and toys are needed. * **Items can be dropped off from September 20 through October 1**, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. **at the Rosenberg Police Department's headquarters** located at 2120 4th Street in Rosenberg.

Take advantage of this great opportunity and help a worthy cause by cleaning out your closets and making a difference in someone's life! For more information about this donation drive, please call (281) 344-5784.

If you or someone you know is a victim of domestic violence or sexual assault, please call the Center's 24-hour Hotline at 281-342-4357 (HELP).

*Large houseware items such as washers, dryers, refrigerators and furniture are also accepted and must be picked up separately at a place of residence or business by calling (281) 342-5004 to arrange a convenient time. All items must be in working condition to be accepted.



August Employee of the Month

Officer Tim Kraus has been named the City of Rosenberg Employee of the Month for August. Officer Kraus was commended for his compassion, professionalism and kindness in dealing with a Women's Center client and also for his diligence in quickly resolving a burglary case by apprehending the suspect and recovering the stolen goods in question.

By carrying out his job duties with professionalism and vigilance, Officer Kraus provides an example for other employees and citizens to follow. He is pictured with City Manager Jack Hamlett and Police Chief Robert Gracia.

Congratulations, Tim, and thank you for making Rosenberg a better place for us all!



2010 Summer Softball Champions

The City of Rosenberg is proud to announce the Champions of the 2010 Summer Adult Softball League. "Kaos" was the winning Men's league team and "The Incredibles" were the Co-ed league Champion. Congratulations!

The Parks and Recreation Department sponsors adult softball leagues for men's and co-ed teams throughout the year. League play typically runs 8 to 12 weeks and follows modified ASA rules. Games are played on the full-size softball field at Travis Park and are normally scheduled on Monday and Thursday evenings. The next league will begin in the spring of 2011.

For further information please call 832-595-3520, or email: lydiaa@ci.rosenberg.tx.us.

Co-ed Champions (below left) - The Incredibles (L-R): Front row: Veronica Garcia, Julie Garza, Ram Cisneros Sr., Jacob Cisneros; Back row: Mark Duran, Mike Walsh, Linda Carranza, Kenny Benton, Angie Todhunter, Kip Todhunter, Yvonne Gonzales, Kim Pena, Phil Reza; Not Pictured: Frankie Pena, Ram Cisneros Jr.



Men's Champions (above right) - Kaos (L-R): Front row: Gabriel "Grip" Carranza, Jacob "Pooky" Cisneros, Ram Cisneros, Sr., Tony Garcia, Delfino Gonzales; Back row: Mark Duran, Clyde Whittington, Ram Cisneros, Jr., Matt Bryson, Kip Todhunter, Phil "Flip" Reza, Billy Fagert; Not Pictured: Kenny Seymour, Roland Mora.



Image Committee

SEPTEMBER BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS

Bernie Cabrera
920 Horace Mann Avenue

Car Time, Inc.
1804 Avenue M

Ernesto Contreras
1747 5th Street

Frank & Jamie Davis
2704 Cambridge Circle

Edward & Becky Samaniego
2509 Parrott Avenue

Attention Rental Property Owners:

If you've not done so already, be sure to register your rental property today!

The City of Rosenberg Code of Ordinances, Chapter 6, Article 19, requires that all residential rental properties within the City be registered annually by September 30.

Properties must be registered at the Rosenberg Fire Marshal's office located at 1012 5th Street. The necessary documents for property registration may be picked up at the office, or downloaded at www.ci.rosenberg.tx.us.

Units that are not registered by the **September 30 deadline**, may be subject to additional administrative and inspection fees as specified in the Code.

For further information on the City's Residential Rental Inspection Program, please contact the Fire Marshal's Office at 832-595-3600.



STOP!

Don't Pour Your Grease Down the Drain...

Cooking oil, grease and food debris poured into the kitchen sink drain can accumulate in the pipes and cause back-ups in the household and public sewer system. Sewer lines that become coated with solidified grease have less capacity to convey wastewater.

The following methods can be used to properly dispose of the cooking oils and grease:

- Pour the oil or grease into a metal collection container with a tight fitting lid. Allow the grease to cool and solidify. It can then be disposed of with the household garbage.
- Scrape food scraps into the trash, not in the sink drain or disposal.
- Wipe pots, pans, and dishes with dry paper towels before rinsing or washing them.
- Dispose of the paper towels in the trash bin. The use of cloth towels will transfer grease to the washing machine and collect in the sewer lines.
- Rinse dishes and cooking pans with cold water before putting them into the dishwasher. Hot water dissolves the fats and greases and washes into the sewer pipes. Later on, the hot water will cool and the grease will clog the pipes.
- If you have a lot of oil to dispose of, use clay cat litter. Mix the litter, a little at time, into the oil. When all the oil has been absorbed, pour the cat litter into a trash bag and seal the bag. Dispose of it in your regular trash.
- You can also contact your local recycling center to inquire if they accept used household grease.

Following these guidelines will help keep maintenance costs down for all residents, and will ensure better functioning of your household plumbing.

For further information, please contact the City of Rosenberg Health Department at (832) 595-3550 or visit www.tceq.state.tx.us/assistance/P2Recycle/fog.



Construction Updates

FM 2218 Utility Relocation

McKinney Construction, the City's contractor, has begun work along FM 2218 between US 59 and Town Center Boulevard. Approximately 4,500 feet of waterline and 900 feet of sanitary sewer line are being relocated in preparation for the Texas Department of Transportation's forthcoming FM 2218 widening and improvement project from US 59 to FM 762. The majority of work is occurring in the rights-of-way, and drivers are advised to exercise caution in this area. Work is expected to be complete by mid-October.

Bamore Road

Phase II of the Bamore Road Project is progressing nicely. The project includes widening and drainage improvements from Bernard Avenue to just north of Southgate Drive. When completed, this section of Bamore Road will consist of a three-lane concrete roadway with curb and gutter. It will have a designated center turn lane and concrete sidewalks down the east side of the road. The section of roadway directly in front of Bowie Elementary will have sidewalks along both sides. Intersections that are being reconstructed as part of the project include Elizabeth Avenue, Grunwald Heights Boulevard, Wilburn Street, Brooks Avenue, Reinhard Street, Magnolia Drive and Southgate Drive. The Bamore Road Phase II Widening Project is expected to be complete by spring 2011.



Spacek Road Realignment

The City began work on the realignment of Spacek Road in February of this year. The project will build a new section of Spacek road from Research Drive to Reading Road to align with the existing intersection at the entrance to Brazos Town Center Phase II. The project also includes significant stormwater drainage improvements.

Drivers are asked to take extra caution in the above areas and be prepared for closures and detours throughout the duration of the projects. For general questions, please contact Citizen Relations at 832-595-3301.

Got Cans? Use them to Promote Cancer Awareness

Rosenberg Firefighter Clint Leopold had a great idea: collect aluminum cans and then donate the proceeds to various local projects to fight cancer. His idea was enthusiastically applauded and the Cans4Cancer program was formed for the purpose of raising funds to promote cancer awareness, fund other cancer organizations, and provide educational materials for awareness of prevention, care, and treatment of cancer patients.



The City adopted the program and Cans4Cancer receptacles are located at the various City facilities. Additionally, Rosenberg's **Fort Bend Recyclers** and **Julius Metals** in Stafford have both agreed to be **collection points for the program**. If you drop off cans or other metals at the above locations, please consider donating the proceeds to Cans4Cancer by telling the operator. It is hoped that businesses, organizations, and residents will continue joining in this effort. Cans4Cancer is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation, so donations are tax deductible.

Anyone wishing to participate, make a donation to Cans4Cancer, or assist in any way, should visit www.Cans4Cancer.com.

Rosenberg Salutes our Soldiers!



Staff recently completed packing and shipping 50 care packages to troops in Afghanistan. The packages included donations and letters of appreciation offered by Family 4th attendees. If you are interested in following the cause or getting involved in future efforts, please visit the Facebook Community Page "Rosenberg, Texas, Salutes our Soldiers".



ROSENBERG DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Building Our Future

Economic Development 101



What is economic development?

Economic development includes any activity that seeks to improve the economic condition of a community in order to provide jobs and a stable tax base for the provision of essential services and infrastructure. Economic development strategies are most likely to create resilient local economies when they utilize the unique strengths and comparative advantages of their communities.

Economic development initiatives generally seek to achieve one or more of five goals: 1) the recruitment of new employers; 2) the retention and/or expansion of existing businesses; 3) support for entrepreneurs; 4) support for community investment; and 5) quality of life improvements.

How does economic development work?

Texas state law allows cities to establish 4A and/or 4B development corporations funded by a sales tax up to .5%. The Rosenberg Development Corporation is a 4B-type corporation. 4A and 4B corporations each permit the expenditure of local sales tax funds for different types of economic development projects, though in general, 4B corporations have fewer restrictions on the use of funds than do 4A corporations.

Some of the approved expenditures 4B corporations may make include: improvements to or construction of land, buildings, equipment and facilities for the retention and creation of primary jobs; job training classes and career centers; infrastructure and utilities assistance and improvements; light rail, commuter rail or motor buses; enhancements to a community's quality of life (i.e. parks, sports venues, beautification efforts, etc.); and rail ports and facilities, marine ports and inland ports.

The sales tax that is generated throughout the City helps to fund infrastructure improvements, enhances the quality of life for residents, and improves the surroundings in which businesses prosper. These improvements also make Rosenberg more attractive to businesses looking to relocate to the region or expand their current facilities.

Economic development initiatives contribute to a cycle through which locally-spent dollars are collected and reallocated toward projects that improve the quality of life for the community, and the community as a whole, thereby improving the likelihood that more dollars will be generated which can then be reinvested to complete further improvements.



Time to Test Your Smoke Alarms!

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) will mark October 3-9, 2010, as Fire Prevention Week. This year's Fire Prevention campaign is "Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With!"

Smoke alarms can mean the difference between life and death in a fire. NFPA statistics show that functional smoke alarms cut the chance of dying in a fire nearly in half, but they must be working properly to do so.

The association's data shows that many homes have smoke alarms that aren't working or maintained properly, usually because of missing, disconnected or dead batteries. Roughly two-thirds of all home fire deaths result from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

"Most people have a sense of complacency about smoke alarms because they already have one in their homes. Fire Prevention Week provides an excellent opportunity to re-educate people about smoke alarms, new technologies and expanded options for installation and maintenance," says Judy Comoletti, division manager for NFPA public education. "Ultimately, we want this year's campaign to serve as a call to action for households nationwide to inspect their homes to ensure that their families have the full smoke alarm protection that's recommended."

In conjunction with the National Fire Protection Association, the Rosenberg Fire Department takes this opportunity to remind the public of several important tips including:

- Be sure to install alarms on every level of your home (including basements), outside each sleeping area, and inside each bedroom;
- Never remove or disable smoke alarms;
- Interconnect smoke alarms so that when one sounds, they all do (particularly important in multi-story homes);
- Test alarms at least monthly by using the test button, taking note to replace the batteries if an alarm "chirps" during the test; and
- Be sure to replace alarms at least every 10 years, or when they show sign of malfunctioning.

There are two types of smoke alarm technologies - ionization and photoelectric. Since the different technologies are more responsive to different aspects of fire (flaming versus smoldering), the NFPA recommends that you install both types in your home, or combination alarms that take advantage of both technologies.

To find out more about Fire Prevention Week programs and activities please contact the Rosenberg Fire Department at (832) 595-3600. To learn more about "Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With!," visit NFPA's Web site at www.firepreventionweek.org.

Source: www.nfpa.org



Texas Roadhouse to Host Lunch to Benefit Rosenberg Fire Dept.

Are you hungry? Be sure to mark your calendar for Wednesday, October 27, when Texas Roadhouse once again teams up with the Rosenberg Fire Department to serve lunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Lunch is free and will be served by members of the Fire Department along with volunteers from the Texas Roadhouse staff. Donations, of course, will be gladly accepted and will be contributed to the Rosenberg Fire Department to help cover unfunded operations costs. Come hungry and ready to be entertained – we look forward to seeing you there!



Members of Rosenberg Fire Department's C shift are pictured above with Roadhouse Staff.

September Employee of the Month

Rosenberg Police Department Patrol Officer, Danielle Delgado, was named the September Employee of the Month for the City of Rosenberg. She has been with the City since February of 2006. Officer Delgado was nominated by a fellow officer and honored as the City's September Employee of the Month for the actions she took to assist a student at boot camp who wanted to attend class but did not meet dress code.



Officer Delgado went out of her way and personally purchased the required item in order to insure that the youth was able to attend class on the first day and beyond. Her actions helped leave a positive impression on the child and other youth at the boot camp, hopefully changing their impression of police officers in general.

Danielle is pictured with Chief Robert Gracia and City Manager Jack Hamlett.

Thank you, Danielle, for being such a wonderful, caring role model for our youth and other employees!

Better than Santa Claus!

Rosenberg Firefighter, Patrick Neal, recently took a little time out to help out the students at Beasley Elementary School. Patrick has been employed with the City of Rosenberg Fire Department as a Ride-up Driver/Operator since 2005.

As part of a heroes-themed reading night, Patrick donned his uniform and brought his firefighting gear for the children to try on. He read a fire-themed book to the students and talked about how he came to be a firefighter, along with what reading skills were required to perform his job.



According to Beasley Elementary School Reading Facilitator, Janice Bowling, one of the students was overheard saying Mr. Neal's attendance was "better than Santa Claus!" Ms. Bowling continued, "Reading is a chore for those who are just beginning. Patrick helped them to see a different way to look at it. He made our job easier and we thank him."

Image Committee

OCTOBER BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS

Gary & Alex Bloomfield
4003 Marilyn Street

Darla & Stephen Hofferek
1920 Klauke Court

Norman & Maria Mesa
4905 Dogwood Drive

Judy Johnson & Steven Penna
2016 Spruce Drive

Scott & Sylvia Wallace
5515 Walnut Glen Lane

Longhorn Construction Supplies
25635 Southwest Freeway

BOOBERG is back!

October 30, 2010
10 a.m. to 12 noon

Seabourne Creek
Nature Park

The City's free Halloween treat for kids aged 10 and under, will be held Saturday, October 30, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at Seabourne Creek Nature Park, 3831 State Highway 36 South.

The event will include games, activities, snowcones, prizes and a haunted house!

For more information, please email lydiaa@ci.rosenberg.tx.us, or call (832) 595-3520.



Blume Road Project Public Meeting Scheduled for November 30

The City of Rosenberg will host a public meeting on Tuesday, November 30, at 6 p.m. at Bowie Elementary School, 2304 Bamore Road.

The City's project engineer, Kelly R. Kaluza and Associates, Inc., will present preliminary designs for comments and input from those in attendance.

The Blume Road improvement project will widen the road from two lanes with open drainage ditches, to three lanes, with a continuous turn lane, curb and gutter, from Klauke to Spur 529. It will also include a sidewalk along one side of the road.

Residents are encouraged to attend to hear details about the project, discuss construction with City staff and project engineers, and provide input and feedback.

General questions about the public meeting may be directed to Citizen Relations at (832) 595-3301.

Interactive Voice Response now available on the Texas Travel Information Line

According to *Travel Log*, a monthly publication put out by the Texas Department of Transportation, TxDOT has just launched a new interactive voice response (IVR) system for the Texas Travel Information Line, "offering drivers access, via (800) 452-9292, to around-the-clock, near real time information on traffic and weather affecting conditions for the roads and highways."

Because the system is somewhat new, it is still "learning" to recognize many accents and names within the State, and callers are asked to be patient while these things are fine-tuned in the automated system.

In addition to accessing information about road and weather conditions, callers can speak with travel counselors at the push of a button if they need additional information or would like to request travel literature.

For more information, visit
www.txdot.gov.



RPD Lt. Aaron Slater Earns Bachelor's Degree

Rosenberg Police Department Patrol Lieutenant, Aaron Slater, recently completed his Bachelor of Science degree, Magna Cum Laude, in Organizational Leadership. Lt. Slater earned his degree in June of this year from Mountain State University. According to the University's website, the program in Organizational Leadership "encompasses principles of leadership relevant in a variety of settings..., [providing] students with a framework for understanding how organizations work." Lt. Slater is now studying for a Master's Degree in Management and Leadership in Criminal Justice at Sam Houston State University.

Lt. Slater began his career in law enforcement with the City in 1998 as a Patrol Officer. Since then, he has been assigned as a Field Training Officer and S.W.A.T. Operator, and has served as a Detective in the Criminal Investigations Division (CID) and the Fort Bend County Narcotics Task Force. He was promoted to Sergeant in 2006 and worked to develop the Rosenberg Police Department's Narcotics and Reoccurring Crimes Squad (NARCS). In 2008, he was promoted to Lieutenant in charge of the Patrol Division which encompasses Patrol, S.W.A.T., Criminal Interdiction/K-9, Traffic Investigation, Field Training, Communications, Honor Guard, Detention and the Bicycle Unit.



Chief Robert Gracia stated, "Lt. Slater's commitment to excellence through continuing education exemplifies his drive and dedication to improvement - a quality of which we are all proud that provides an excellent model for all of our employees to strive toward."

Congratulations, Lt. Slater, on a job well done!

Rosenberg Fares Well According to FBI Report

When the Rosenberg Police Department reported the City's crime statistics in the annual Uniform Crime Report in February of this year, they knew the numbers represented a significant decrease in reportable crimes since the report's inception in 1996 - 46% to be exact. What they did not know, is how Rosenberg's 2009 crime statistics ranked in comparison to those of other Houston-area communities.



The Houston Chronicle reported on September 13, that according to a recently-released FBI Report, Rosenberg was one of only 13 cities (out of 55 from the Houston area) that reported either decreases or no change in both property and violent crimes in their 2009 crime data.

Source: www.chron.com - "Suburbs in greater Houston area see jump in crime" 091310.

Police Officers Association Requests Assistance for Injured Officer

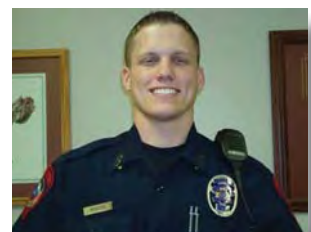
Rosenberg Police Officer Gary Roberts was involved in an off-duty motorcycle accident in September, and is undergoing treatment for his injuries at Memorial Hermann.

An account has been established for donations to help Officer Roberts' family with medical expenses. Any and all contributions are greatly appreciated.

Donations may be made to Officer Roberts at:

Texas Citizens Bank
281-238-8700
24701 SW Freeway Suite 700
Rosenberg, Texas 77469

For additional information, please contact the
Rosenberg Police Department at (832) 595-3700.



ROSENBERG DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Building Our Future

Economic Development 101 Infrastructure and Utilities Assistance

The primary mission of municipal economic development is to recruit, retain and encourage the expansion of primary employers in the city. In order to achieve these goals, the Texas Legislature allows for the creation of development corporations to fund projects related to the development of business in cities. One of the ways that an economic development corporation can improve a city's economic condition is through the use of **targeted infrastructure improvements**.

Adequate and reliable infrastructure is a requirement for any commercial enterprise. Infrastructure types that can be improved or constructed via development corporation funding include streets, rail, drainage, water facilities/transmission lines, electrical transmission lines, and sewage facilities/transmission lines. This type of funding allows for the city and the development corporation to provide these services independently from other funding sources that are typically strained, such as a city's general funds.

Infrastructure improvement projects can be associated with the requirements of a specific business, or may be undertaken in order to provide for the expected future needs of a commercial area. When planning for future growth, City staff and Rosenberg Development Corporation (RDC) directors attempt to anticipate future infrastructure requirements so that the needs of our business community, present and future, can be quickly and efficiently met.

The realignment of Spacek Road serves as an excellent example of an infrastructure improvement project involving the RDC. This project helps facilitate the expansion of Biotics Research Corporation, a successful local business, through drainage improvements in the form of an expansion of the storm sewer system. These improvements will allow Biotics to more fully utilize their property for added warehouse space, which in turn, allows them to expand their business and ultimately, create additional jobs. The Rosenberg Development Corporation is contributing \$300,000 towards the project along with the company's contribution of \$50,000. The drainage portion of the project was facilitated by the larger realignment project which is a partnership between the City, Fort Bend County, and MUD 144.



The photos at left show the progress of the drainage improvements along Spacek Road and Biotics Research Drive.



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www.ci.rosenberg.tx.us

November 2010

Rosenberg INSIDER

Upcoming Rosenberg Holiday Festivities



The holidays start early in the City of Rosenberg with the annual **GAZEBO LIGHTING** scheduled for **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1**, from **6:30 PM TO 8 PM** at City Hall - 2110 4th Street.

The event marks the official, ceremonial kick-off of the holidays for the City and is centered on the lighting of the Gazebo by the Honorable Joe M. Gurecky, Mayor, assisted of course, by Santa Claus.

After arriving on a Rosenberg Fire Truck, Santa and Mrs. Claus will visit with the evening's attendees, take photos, and hear special requests and Christmas wishes. Guests will be able to enjoy refreshments and holiday music. The event is free and everyone is encouraged to attend.

For more information, please contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 832-595-3960.

The City's signature event, **CHRISTMAS IN ROSENBERG**, will follow on **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4**, from **3 PM TO 9 PM** in historic downtown Rosenberg.

The event is free and open to the public, so come down and ring in the Season at Christmas in Rosenberg! Bring your family and friends and head to downtown for a fun-filled evening. Browse the merchants and vendors, take in Rosenberg's rich railroad history at the Museum, have your photo taken with Santa, and enjoy the sights and sounds of the holidays with local dance and chorale groups.



Coordinated by the Rosenberg Convention and Visitors Bureau Special Events Subcommittee, the event will feature Santa and Mrs. Claus as special guests of honor, and includes a children's carnival hosted by the Rosenberg Railroad Museum; entertainment from local schools, churches and dance groups; performances by CAST Theatrical; abundant food and gift/craft vendors; and of course, wonderful downtown shops and restaurants that will welcome patrons throughout the evening. New additions to this year's event include children's story time, a "Miss Merry Christmas" pageant and professional Santa photography.

For more information, please visit RosenbergEvents.com or call 832-595-3520.

Public Meeting on Blume Road Project to be Held Nov. 30

The City of Rosenberg will host a public meeting on the upcoming Blume Road Project on Tuesday, November 30, at 6 p.m., at Bowie Elementary School, 2304 Bamore Road.

The City's project engineer, Kelly R. Kaluza and Associates, Inc., will present preliminary designs for comments and input from those in attendance.

The Blume Road Improvement Project will widen the road from two lanes with open drainage ditches, to three lanes, with a continuous turn lane, curb and gutter, from Klauke to Spur 529. It will also include a sidewalk along one side of the road.



Residents are encouraged to attend to hear details about the project, discuss construction with City staff and project engineers, and provide input and feedback.

General questions about the public meeting may be directed to Citizen Relations at (832) 595-3301.



Texas Roadhouse Benefit Raises funds for Rosenberg Fire Dept.

On Wednesday, October 27, Texas Roadhouse once again teamed up with the Rosenberg Fire Department to serve a free lunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. with proceeds benefitting the Department. Lunch was served by members of the Fire Department along with volunteers from the Texas Roadhouse staff. Donations were accepted and will be used for the Rosenberg Fire Department to cover unfunded operations costs.

Members of the Roadhouse and Fire Department staff entertained diners with their dance moves throughout the afternoon. Firefighters were also on hand to discuss the Volunteer Firefighter Program and offer fire safety tips to those in attendance.



In total, the 2010 event raised \$2,860! The afternoon included an unexpected surprise for the Department when Bel Furniture stopped by to donate a recliner for the Fire House.

Chief Kathleen Hutchens stated, "We were excited and greatly appreciative of the Texas Roadhouse and their support of the Rosenberg Fire Department. This is the second year that they have chosen us

as a beneficiary of their efforts. The attitude of the management and staff of the Roadhouse is so positive and energetic that it becomes infectious. They have demonstrated in words and actions that they are an asset and a great supporter of our community. We are hopeful that this event will become an annual tradition in our city."



Thanks to everyone for your support! For more information on the Rosenberg Fire Department, or the Volunteer Firefighter Program, please contact Rosenberg Fire Administration at 832-595-3600.

Pictured above (left to right): Lt. Wayne Jetelina and Captain Daryl Hartmann welcome guests; Chief Kathleen Hutchens visits with attendees at the benefit.



National Night Out 2010 Lights Up Target® Parking Lot

The Rosenberg Police and Fire Departments, along with Life Flight, joined Brazos Town Center merchants on Tuesday, October 5, for Texas' National Night Out 2010.

Attendees were entertained with demonstrations by the Rosenberg PD K-9 Unit, and tours of the Life Flight helicopter, Police vehicles and the Fire Safety House. Sparky the Fire Dog was on hand to meet and greet attendees, and merchants offered treats to those in attendance.

The evening was designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; generate support for and participation in local anti-crime efforts; strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and send a message to criminals letting them know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back. Many neighborhoods also hosted block parties.

Image Committee

NOVEMBER BEAUTIFICATION & RENOVATION AWARDS

John and Alicia Casias
1236 Louise Street

Lana Kulpa
1319 Carlisle Street

Donald McDaniel
3301 Avenue R

New Hope Church
1130 7th Street

Frank and Peggy Sebesta
3416 Glenmeadow Drive

Paul and Dorothy Warren
1704 Frost Street

Upcoming City of Rosenberg Holiday Closures

All municipal facilities
will be closed the
following dates:



Thanksgiving
Thursday, November 25*
& Friday, November 26



Christmas
Friday, December 24



New Year's Day
Friday, December 31

***Garbage will NOT be collected Thanksgiving Day, but will instead be picked up on the next regular garbage day (Monday).**

Emergencies should be directed to Police Dispatch at 832-595-3700. Citizens may contact the Citizen Relations Coordinator at 832-595-3301 with general inquiries.

Have a safe and happy holiday season!



FEMA Releases Preliminary Revised Flood Insurance Rate Map

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has released preliminary revised Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) for Fort Bend County, which includes all of the City of Rosenberg and the City's ETJ. The proposed maps are available for viewing on the Fort Bend County website, as well as the City of Rosenberg website.

FEMA is currently addressing appeals and protests related to the proposed maps. This process is estimated to take from six (6) months to two (2) years, depending on the comments. Once this review is complete, FEMA will reissue the maps with notice of their effective date.

A restudy of the Brazos River and digital mapping data have resulted in differences between the revised maps and the current maps. The revisions are primarily the result of FEMA's program to convert all the nation's flood maps to a digital format. The most significant revisions to the FIRM impacting Rosenberg are in the area along Dry Creek.

The revised maps may impact individuals in terms of flood insurance. If the current map does not show your property in the floodplain, and the proposed map does, it is recommended that you consider purchasing flood insurance before the revised maps become effective. Please check with your insurance provider and/or mortgage company. Residents are encouraged to review the existing and revised maps to determine if their property could be impacted by the revisions.

Should residents have further questions about the maps, please contact the Planning Department at 832-595-3500, visit www.ci.rosenberg.tx.us, or www.fema.gov/hazard/map/flood.shrm.



New Section of Spacek Road Now Open to Traffic

Drivers are advised to take caution when in the area of Reading Road, US-59 and Spacek Road in the coming months.

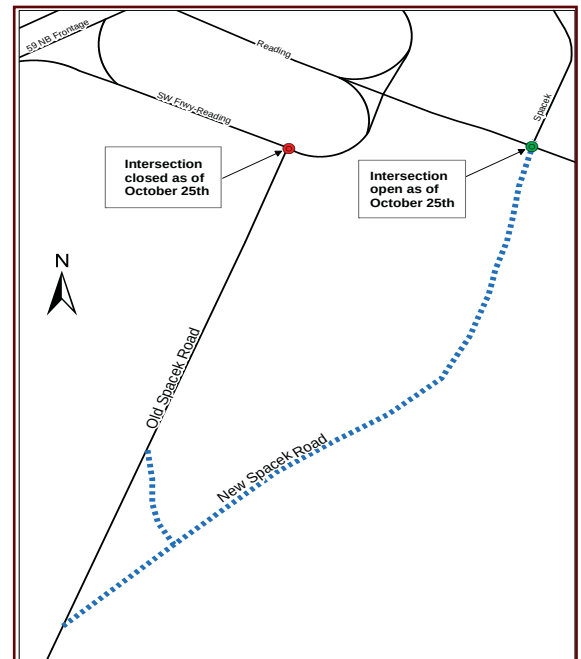
The City of Rosenberg began work on the Spacek Road Realignment Project in March of 2010. The project extends Spacek Road from Research Drive to Reading Road in order to align it with the entrance of Brazos Town Center Phase II and improve traffic flow. It also includes significant drainage improvements in the surrounding area. The project is a partnership among the City, Fort Bend County, MUD 144, the Rosenberg Development Corporation and Biotics Research Corporation.

The new, realigned section of roadway is complete and consists of four (4) divided concrete lanes. Beginning Monday, October 25, the intersection of Spacek Road at the US-59 feeder road was closed (see map), and traffic was re-routed onto the new portion of Spacek Road.

Additionally, the City re-striped the west-bound Spacek Road exit lanes from Brazos Town Center Phase II to accommodate the new intersection and traffic flow. The City also installed a four (4)-way stop at the intersection to improve safety in the area.

Over the coming months, the City will be working with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to study and improve traffic in the general area of Reading Road and Brazos Town Center Phases I and II. Drivers are advised to take caution in the area as the traffic patterns and routes will be changing.

For general questions, please contact Citizen Relations at 832-595-3301.



New Park and Ride Location at Fort Bend County Fairgrounds

Fort Bend County is pleased to offer the Fort Bend Express that will provide commuter service to the Texas Medical Center. The Fort Bend Express/Texas Medical Center Commuter Service consists of fixed route services to the main campus of the Texas Medical Center and to the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center.



The Fort Bend Express/Texas Medical Center commuter service route includes the new Park and Ride location at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds, 4310 State Highway 36 South, pictured below. The fare rate is \$3.50 each way and a reverse commute service is accessible at certain times. A full schedule and route information is available online.



For further information on the Fort Bend Express/Texas Medical Center commuter service, please call 281-633 7344 (RIDE) or 1-866-751-8747 (TRIP). Comments and questions can also be emailed to Fort Bend County Public Transportation at: Public.Transportation@co.fort-bend.tx.us.

Source: www.co.fort-bend.tx.us

ROSENBERG DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Building Our Future

Economic Development 101 Tax Incentives

One of the primary ways local governments are funded is through ad valorem, or property, taxation. State law provides for cities to make a number of exemptions to property taxes, such as homestead, disabled veteran, and over-65 exemptions. In addition, the Legislature has provided for two exemptions to encourage new commercial investment and job creation - tax abatements and freeport exemption. Tax abatements are detailed below.

Tax abatement is one of the most common tools that local governments possess to attract new industry and commercial enterprises to an area. Tax abatement can also be utilized to encourage existing businesses to expand and create new jobs. It is defined as a temporary exemption from a portion of property taxes on improvements made to a piece of real property for a specified length of time, up to ten years. The exemption may only apply to newly constructed buildings or equipment, and does not apply to land. Therefore, property already on the tax rolls cannot be removed. In Rosenberg, abatements have historically ranged from an average of twenty-five (25) to fifty (50) percent over the life of the abatement.

An example of a tax abatement is:

Company A owns a \$100,000 tract of land and wishes to build a \$2,000,000 building to create 50 new jobs. The empty tract of land currently pays \$500 in City property taxes (\$100,000 times \$0.50 per \$100 valuation). If they receive a 25% tax abatement for five years, they will pay the following:

Years 1 through 5 – Land (\$500) plus Building (75% of \$2,000,000 times \$0.50 per \$100 valuation) = \$8,000 per year

Year 6 and beyond – Land (\$500) plus Building (\$2,000,000 times \$.50 per \$100 valuation) = \$10,500 per year

If the company had chosen to locate in a different community, the City would only realize \$500 per year in property taxes, and no new jobs would be created.

By offering abatements on increased property value, the taxing entity is effectively delaying its benefit to encourage the existing or potential business enterprise to invest its funds in the respective taxing district. Because existing property cannot receive tax abatement, nothing is lost through the abatement, and the risk is very low. Most tax abatements have been made in conjunction with similar agreements from Fort Bend County. School districts are not able to participate in tax abatements as a result of changes in school finance laws.

Rosenberg currently has tax abatement agreements with four (4) local businesses.



Save Cash and Stay Warm this Winter

Have you prepared your home and yard for the cold, barren winter months? Follow these easy tips to make sure everything's in tip-top shape so that you can enjoy the winter and be ready to go at the first signs of spring - all while improving energy efficiency and saving money over the long run!

- * Seal air leaks around doors, windows and the fireplace to keep heat in and cold out
- * Set your thermostat as low as is comfortable
- * Add insulation to poorly insulated areas
- * Weatherize your home: learn the benefits of weatherizing your house, as well as other ways to keep your dollar bills from flying out the window by visiting the interactive house at takecareoftexas.org.
- * Prepare your lawn and garden for winter: fallen leaves can be a great addition to mulch or compost, which will help improve your lawn and garden's soil.
- * Save water, save money: plants, lawns and gardens require less water in the fall and winter so be sure to cut back your watering schedule and capitalize on fall rains by capturing them to use on your plants.



For other energy savings tips around the house and yard, visit: takecareoftexas.org.

State of Texas Winter Appliance Rebate Program

The State of Texas is offering a new appliance mail-in rebate program made possible through unclaimed rebate funds beginning December 20, 2010. Approximately \$10 million will be available for this program. The goal of the program is to promote awareness of ENERGY STAR® appliances and decrease energy consumption by encouraging appliance replacement.

Purchases made on or after December 20 in accordance with the program guidelines are eligible for the rebates on a first-come, first-served basis through a purchase and mail-in program. Rebates will be available until all funds have been distributed (rather than being reserved up front).



Eligible appliances include, but are not limited to: air-source heat pumps, central air conditioners, clothes washers, dishwashers, freezers, refrigerators, room air conditions and water heater.

Program details and energy saving tips are available on at texaspowerfulsmart.com. According to the website, the best way to learn about new program details and updates is to sign up for e-mail notifications or follow the program on Twitter. Additional information will be posted on the website when it becomes available as no additional details are available at this time by phone.

Source: texaspowerfulsmart.com

November Employees of the Month

Rosenberg Fire Inspector, Robert Salmons, and Volunteer Firefighter, John Arnold, were named November Employees of the Month. In August, the two responded to a call in the Kingdom Heights subdivision on FM 723. When they arrived, they found a dog in the middle of the lake struggling to stay afloat and they called for a rescue boat to respond to the location.

Although bystanders advised the two firefighters the lake may contain alligators and snakes, the two feared the dog would not survive until the boat arrived and entered the lake, swimming out to the distressed dog which was scared and put up a struggle. The two grabbed the dog and then returned to the shore with it in tow. After the rescue, the dog found his way to his owner and is doing well. Robert and John's actions saved the dog's life and portrayed a positive image of the Fire Department and City.

John and Robert are pictured above with Fire Chief Kathleen Hutchens and City Manager Jack Hamlett. Well done, gentlemen!



Parks Department Completes Trail Improvements at Seabourne Creek Nature Park

The City's Park department recently completed trail improvements at Seabourne Creek Park. The \$30,000 in project materials was financed by the Rosenberg Development Corporation (RDC) and the labor was provided by volunteers and City staff.

The trail improvement project was aimed at improving recreation opportunities in Seabourne Creek Park by installing new sections of trail and resurfacing existing sections to improve coverage and access to more parts of the park. 3,200 linear feet of crushed granite gravel was laid in a five (5) foot wide path to complete the loop cut off by the new access road to the Seabourne Creek Regional Sports Complex, connect the parking lot to the current trail system, build a new trail to the prairie restoration area, extend the existing system around the wetlands area, and to connect the boardwalk area to existing trails.



In addition to the trail improvements, a new shade structure was installed near the parking lot with solar-powered lighting as a place for runners/walkers to warm-up and cool down. Lamar Consolidated ISD held a cross country meet on the newly completed trails (pictured below) with schools from all over the Houston area in attendance.

The trail improvements compliment a more comprehensive plan by the Coastal Prairie Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists to enhance the viability and usability of Seabourne Creek Nature Park in accordance with the City's Parks Master Plan, and in partnership with the RDC.

For more information on Seabourne Creek Nature Park, or other City park amenities, please call the Rosenberg Civic Center at 832-595-3520 or the Parks Department at 832-595-3960.

Rosenberg Regional Water Conference



The City of Rosenberg will host a conference on regional water issues **Thursday, January 6, 2011, from 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** at the Rosenberg Civic Center. Registration is \$30 and includes breakfast, breaks and lunch.

Come hear from some of Fort Bend's experts on a topic vital to us all - drinking water. Speakers include: **The Honorable Glenn Hegar** - State Senator, District 18; **Marvin Marcell** - Chairman, Fort Bend Subsidence District; **Melinda Silva** - North Fort Bend Water Authority; **Frank Simpson and Scott Elmer** - City of Missouri City; **Jack Hamlett** - City of Rosenberg; and **Carl Hopkins and Kenny Kucherka** - Richmond-Rosenberg Local Government Corporation.

Register now - there are a limited number of seats available! Forms available at: ci.rosenberg.tx.us under "H2O Fort Bend Registration". Contact the City Manager's Office at 832-595-3310 for further information.

Image Committee

DECEMBER BEAUTIFICATION & RENOVATION AWARDS

Landscape:
Daniel & Sylvia Delgado
1302 Hemple Drive

Amelia Rodriguez
712 Damon Street

Renovation:
Tyrone Amacker
4908 Timber Lane

Charlette Ricklefson
1608 Elizabeth Street

Upcoming City of Rosenberg Holiday Closures

All municipal facilities
will be closed the
following dates:



**Christmas
(observed)**
Friday, December 24



**New Year's Day
(observed)**
Friday, December 31

**Garbage WILL BE
collected
as regularly scheduled
December 24 and 31.**

Citizens may contact
the Citizen Relations
Coordinator at 832-
595-3301 with general
inquiries.

Emergencies should be
directed to Police Dispatch
at 832-595-3700.

**May your holidays
be merry & bright!**



Image Committee Corner

Tips and resources for enhancing your own little corner of the world...

Turn your Old Phones into Time Well Spent for Soldiers

If you're like most people, you have one (or two) or more old phones collecting dust around your home or office. Now, you can turn those old phones into valuable calling cards for United States Soldiers through a program called **Cell Phones for Soldiers**, whose mission is to "help our troops call home."

Cell Phones for Soldiers was founded by teenagers Robbie and Brittany Bergquist from Norwell, Mass., with \$21 of their own money. Since then, the registered 501c3 non-profit organization has raised almost \$2 million in donations and distributed more than 500,000 prepaid calling cards to soldiers serving overseas.

Phones are collected through local partners, and are then sent to ReCellular for recycling. ReCellular recycles, refurbishes and/or disposes of the phones according to EPA regulations and then pays **Cell Phones for Soldiers** for each donated phone – enough to provide an hour of talk time to soldiers abroad.

Phones may be donated to **Cell Phones For Soldiers** locally at **Liberty Tax (2617 Avenue H)** in Rosenberg. Donors can receive a receipt for tax purposes on the group's website. The site also includes a free cell phone data eraser for download, and the ability to print postage-paid shipping labels if you want to send a phone in rather than dropping it off. Since the phones themselves are not donated to troops, but are recycled, it is not necessary to include accessories such as batteries and chargers with the donation (however, they will be accepted).

For more information, visit: cellphonesforsoldiers.com



Rosenberg Police Explorers Compete in San Antonio

Proudly representing our community, Rosenberg Police Explorer Post #2120 competed in the 2010 San Antonio Police Explorer Competition on October 16, 2010. The Post, advised by Rosenberg Police officers Detective Randy Weishiemi and Officer Timothy Kraus, brought home 2nd place trophies in the Domestic Disturbance, Felony Traffic Stop and Team Building portions of the competition and 3rd place in Crisis Intervention.



The San Antonio competition is one of three that the Rosenberg Explorers typically compete in every year. The other two include Lake Jackson and Corpus Christi. The competition was held at the San Antonio Police Training Academy and included approximately 65 teams from around the State and Nation.



Post #2120 members who competed in San Antonio (pictured at left) include: Jazmanie Garza, Jay Fowler, Peter Rodriguez, Thomas Ramirez, Shelby Macha, Sarah Jordy, Eunice Vasquez, Laura Palacios, Tyler Severin, Christina Torres, Colby Sptiatman, Zvoini Smith, Lizbeth Ocampo, Natalie Guzman, Kenny Pace, and Andrew Lopez, along with advisors Kraus and Weishiemi.

Explorer competitions test student knowledge and skills in different police crime scenarios involving physical agility, crisis intervention, and tactics of working a traffic stop. Each team that competes gets four different scenarios on which they are judged. The Explorers are pictured (above right) in the Team Building Obstacle Course and (below, left) in the Robbery in Progress scenarios at the 2010 San Antonio Competition.



The Law Enforcement Explorer Program was created by Boy Scouts of America more than 50 years ago and is designed to expose young men and women to the career opportunities available in law enforcement and to allow young people to experience the various aspects of police work, allowing them to develop leadership skills.

For further information on the Rosenberg Police Department Explorer program, please contact Detective Randy Weishiemi at 832-595-3700.

Holiday Safety Tips - Don't let yourself be a victim!

The Rosenberg Police Department prepares for the holiday season by increasing their presence in targeted areas of our community to deter criminals enticed by increased numbers of shoppers and visitors. Through partnerships with the community, businesses and organizations, and detailed crime-analysis, the RPD diligently strives to lower crime and increase public safety every day of the year. Following are safety tips for the holiday season (and year-round):

- Always be aware of your surroundings
- Keep cash to a minimum – use credit cards
- Keep records of credit card numbers and report theft or compromise immediately
 - Don't wear expensive jewelry shopping
- Don't be distracted by talking on a phone or listening to headphones
- Have vehicle keys in hand and alarm button ready BEFORE you leave the store
 - Continuously scan area while loading children & packages
 - Look for & report suspicious people or vehicles
 - ALWAYS lock your vehicle
 - Don't leave valuables in sight
- If approached by a subject with a weapon – don't argue or resist; your life is worth more than anything...However, if you are being forced into a vehicle with the suspect, FIGHT BACK!

ROSENBERG DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Building Our Future

Whirlpool Announces Distribution Facility at Kansas City Southern Intermodal Site

The Whirlpool Corporation is considering plans to construct and operate a major facility at the Centerpoint intermodal facility in Rosenberg's extra-territorial jurisdiction (ETJ). Whirlpool, a Fortune 500 company, manufactures household appliances under the brand names Whirlpool, KitchenAid, Jenn-Air, and Amana and produced nearly \$17 billion in sales in 2009.

Whirlpool expects the distribution facility to be completed in two phases:



- Phase I: Construction of a 750,000 square foot warehouse/distribution facility on 41 acres projected to be complete by December 31, 2013.
- Phase II: Construction of an additional 750,000 square foot facility to be complete by the end of 2018.

With the completion of Phase II, the Whirlpool facility will include a combined distribution area of 1.5 million square feet.

Whirlpool worked with Fort Bend County Precinct 1 Commissioner Richard Morrison and the Greater Fort Bend Economic Development Council to negotiate a tax abatement agreement with Fort Bend County. The agreement stipulates the creation of sixty (60) jobs in the first phase, and an additional twenty (20) in the second phase. It also requires that each project phase generate a minimum of \$30 million in taxable value on the property tax rolls. Additionally, the second phase is expected to include some light manufacturing, resulting in higher-than-average wages for distribution positions.

The Whirlpool facility is the first major project at the \$300 million intermodal development. Once built-out (*see artist's rendering of completed facility above*), the intermodal development will offer 7.5 million square feet of warehouse, distribution, and intermodal space and is expected to add as many as 2,500 jobs to the Rosenberg-area economy.



Focus on Planning...

What does your Planning Department do? Simply put, we play an important role in the development of Rosenberg working closely with developers and property owners to assure compliance the City's requirements for platting, building codes, building set-backs, as well as, parking and landscaping requirements. The concept of "city planning" is not something new; actually, city planning can be traced back to ancient cities. In the last century, city planning has evolved in response to many factors, such as the proliferation of the automobile, the rise of the suburb, and the call for greener communities. Today, our Planning Department addresses many of those issues by working to conceive and amend ordinances related to land development, and working in tandem with the Building Official and City Engineer to ensure all buildings and developments meet City's ordinances and provide support to the Planning and Zoning Commission, a six member body that makes recommendations to the City Council on subdivision plats, ordinance amendments, capital improvement projects, and variances. All these activities are facilitated by a Planning Department staff of four which include a Planner, GIS Analyst, and administrative support personnel.



THERESA GRAHMANN



Pictured (L-R) Antonio Herrera, Scott Frederick, Renee LeLaurin.

ANTONIO HERRERA holds the position of department Planner who reviews building permit applications for conformance with planning related ordinances, and prepares subdivision plats. He also works with customers, conducts field research, and serves as the census contact. A member of the department since May 2007, Antonio holds a Master's Degree in City and Regional Planning from the University of Texas at Arlington and is currently pursuing American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) professional certification. Last year, Antonio served on the national American Planning Association Young Planners' Commission.

Our GIS (Geographic Information Systems) Analyst is **SCOTT FREDERICK**, who utilizes an integrated collection of computer software and data to view and manage information

regarding the City's geographic elements. In simpler terms, Scott creates maps. City planning has evolved over recent years due to computer mapping and GIS; therefore, Scott works closely with many City departments in preparing and updating map layers pertaining to water and sanitary sewer lines, locations of fire hydrants, and storm sewer inlets, to name just a few. Additionally, as new streets are constructed throughout the City, Scott updates those streets within the mapping system, so that the latest information is available. A former student of Methodist University in Fayetteville, North Carolina, Scott has been with the City since January 2007.

Support for departmental activities is facilitated by **RENEE LELAURIN**. Renee's duties include accepting plans and logging them into the system, paying invoices, scheduling meetings, and assisting with the preparation of the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting agenda and packets. Renee also takes the minutes of the Planning and Zoning Commission meetings. She has been with the City since July 2007.

I have been with the City since August 2008 and have a dedicated staff. While the Planning Department has many goals for this fiscal year, the main goal is to provide the best customer service to all of our customers, whether they be citizens, business owners, developers, or future residents, while continuing to update existing ordinances and propose new ordinances as needed to provide for the orderly development of the City and ensure an enhanced quality of life. We all look forward to serving the City of Rosenberg for many years.

Theresa Grahmann, Director of Planning

Focus on Rosenberg's finest...

With the start of a new year, it is important to focus not only on the new year -- but who played a part in getting us to 2009. At the City's annual Employee Awards Luncheon on December 12, City Manager Jack Hamlett announced the recipients of the Willie Daniel McQueen, Jr. Employee of the Year Awards naming nine dedicated staff members who excelled at activities which benefited the City of Rosenberg. The City's Employee of the Year award was renamed in 2005 to honor the memory of Willie Daniel McQueen, Jr. and his service to the City and to the Rosenberg Police Department. Family members of Officer McQueen, Mr. & Mrs. Taylor, attended the Awards Luncheon and participated in the presentation of the Employee of the Year awards. The Employees of the Year included: Rosenberg Assistant Chief of Police DALLIS WARREN, Officer RANDY WEISHIEMER, Fire Department Lieutenant DANNY JOHNSON, Fire Marshal WADE GOATES, Utilities Department staff member JOE REYNA, III, Citizen Relations Coordinator BARBARA VICK, City Planner ANTONIO HERRERA, Information Services staff member KEITH LEACH, and Police Chief ROBERT GRACIA.



WILLIE DANIEL McQUEEN, JR. EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR

Pictured (L-R) Front: Joe Reyna, III, Robert Gracia, Randy Weishiemer, Mr. & Mrs. Taylor, Barbara Vick, Mayor Joe M. Gurecky. Back: City Manager Jack Hamlett, Danny Johnson, Antonio Herrera, Dallis Warren, Keith Leach, Wade Goates.



MOST YEARS OF SERVICE

Pictured (L-R) City Manager Jack Hamlett, Karl Zwahr, Daryl Hartmann, George Velasquez, Robert Gracia, Dallis Warren, Mayor Joe M. Gurecky.

Other staff members were recognized at the Awards Luncheon for their service with the City. Employees receiving Certificates of Recognition for their service included: Utilities Superintendent KARL ZWAHR for 31 years of service; Fire Captain DARYL HARTMANN for 30 years of service; Assistant Police Chief DALLIS WARREN for 29 years; as well as Firefighter GEORGE VELASQUEZ, SR., and Police Chief ROBERT GRACIA for 28 years of service.

Fire Captain LARRY LOESCH, Heavy Equipment Operator ALFREDO GARCIA, Sanitarian CAROLA MANN, Customer Service Supervisor JANICE EDMONDS, Foreman ALBERT DAVIS, and Fire Lieutenant DANNY JOHNSON were recognized for 25 years of service.

Sign Shop Technician MIGUEL NIETO, Assistant Parks Supervisor PAUL MENDOZA, Firefighter BARRY LeBLANC, Police Officer JOSEPH GIFFORD, and Mechanic FRANK ROHAN for 15 years of service; and Firefighter TROY SVATEK, Light Equipment Operator GEORGE SALINAS, Accounting Clerk MARITZA SALAZAR, Mechanic RICHARD OLSON, and Assistant Finance Director CATHY EZELL for 10 years of service.



Municipal Court Clerk FRANCES ENRIQUEZ, Records Clerk TERRI BRADLEY, Maintenance Worker PEDRO BENTANCOURT, Communications Specialist AMY SHEDD, Communications Specialist LaTASHA TAYLOR, Marketing Director REBECCA COVELL, and Payroll Clerk LORI DRESNER also received Certificates of Recognition for completing five years of service with the City.

25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Pictured (L-R) City Manager Jack Hamlett, Larry Loesch, Alfredo Garcia, Carola Mann, Janice Edmonds, Albert Davis, Danny Johnson, Mayor Joe M. Gurecky.

January 2009 Beautification Awards

The City's Beautification Awards recognize excellence in both landscaping and renovation improvements. The Image Committee proudly recognizes the following businesses and residents for taking pride in where they live and do business.

Renovation

Johnny & Samantha Marin - 1121 Carlisle

Landscaping

Graeber Road Church of Christ - 1910 Graeber Road

Landscaping

Eva Daigle - 1610 Mulcahy

Daniel & Maria Lopez - 1702 Ripple Creek

Brian & Valerie Smithey - 1400 Gardenia

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7 - TROUT FISHING TOURNAMENT FOR ANGLERS AGES 4-14

CALL 832-595-3960 FOR MORE INFORMATION

Focus on... Personnel

What does Rosenberg's Personnel Department do? The Department is primarily responsible for six key areas: recruitment; training; a productive workforce; an enabling work environment; a sustainable workforce; and accommodating, responsive communication with employees.

The goals of the staff are to assure that the City's employees are well led; that the organization is continually becoming more productive; that employees' competencies match the anticipated needs of the City; and that in retention and recruitment efforts, the Department is approachable and helpful. All of these activities are a reinforcement of City Council's commitment to invest in the development of the employees to meet the City's future growth. All of this is made possible by a staff of three which include a Personnel Director, an Assistant Personnel Director, and an Administrative Assistant.

The City's Personnel Department works to sustain a diverse, well-trained workforce which provides quality public service to the residents of Rosenberg.

DIANE ZEPEDA holds the position of Administrative Assistant and is a Certified Benefits Administrator, along with a SHRM HR Generalist. She has been with the City since June of 1999. Diane acts as the City's Health Insurance/Benefits Coordinator, handling all insurance inquiries, the annual open enrollment process, and any EAP requests. Additionally, she is responsible for updating the City's pay plan; managing the workers' compensation program, and payroll maintenance. Diane also meets with all new employees in order to complete their orientation process and paperwork – a responsibility that she says is by far her favorite.

The Department's Assistant Personnel Director and newest member of the staff is **YOLANDA McLIN**. Her position was approved by City Council in the 2007-08 Budget and has been a tremendous asset, not only to the Department, but the City as a whole. Yolanda began her employment with the City in November of 2007 and holds a Bachelor degree from LeTourneau University in Business Management. Her key responsibilities are for the recruitment of new employees, including the coordination of all testing and interviews. Yolanda is also charged with training of the City's employees. This includes determining relevant topics to benefit not only the employees, but the citizens of Rosenberg, and organizing presenters for these sessions.



ROSENBERG'S PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT

Director Teri Beck
Yolanda McLin, Diane Zepeda

As Personnel Director, I am responsible for the overall operations of the Department. Having been with the City since 1990, I've seen vast changes -- not only in the workforce and in the community, but in the expectations of both. Therefore, the Department's work objectives are constantly changing.

Departmental goals for this budget year include establishing a Police Recruit Program, selecting an Assistant Fire Chief (a new position approved by City Council), monitoring the City's health insurance plan and GASB 45 requirements, and the review of several of the City's personnel policies and programs. Important programs to be reviewed and/or added this year include the Incentive Pay Plan, Random Drug Testing program, Take Home Vehicle program, and the 9/80 Flex Work Schedule.

The Personnel Department takes great pride in our ability to sustain a diverse, well-trained workforce which provides quality public service to the residents of Rosenberg.

Teri Beck, Personnel Director

Statistics show a lot has changed since 1996.

POLICE CHIEF ROBERT GRACIA's annual Uniform Crime Report for 2008 notes that while calls for service increased by 4% since 2007, major crimes in the City reduced for the twelfth year in a row – a 42% drop since 1996 in part-one crimes which include murder, rape, robbery or aggravated assault, and property crimes, such as burglary, larceny/theft or motor vehicle theft. There has not been a murder in the City since 2004 and aggravated assaults, burglaries, and thefts, including motor vehicle thefts, have all shown a steady decline over the years. What changed the tide? According to Chief Gracia, “the City’s investment in technology, the Department’s partnerships with citizens, and the fact that the Department is hiring better qualified officers makes the difference”.

Persistence paid off for Fleet Maintenance Department.

The **Fleet Maintenance** division of the Public Works Department received the City’s nod as Employees of the Month thanks to their professionalism, dedication to the job, and persistence in not giving up! Following a search of a suspect vehicle impounded following a routine traffic stop, Fleet Maintenance staff found a whopping \$265,100 in the transmission, taking funds out of circulation that were likely destined to finance narcotics smuggling activities. Led by Chief Mechanic **RODNEY WROBLISKI**, his Fleet Maintenance staff of three which includes **FRANK ROHAN**, **PATRICK SPILLERS**, and **RICHARD OLSON**, are the City’s behind-the-scene champions who keep the City’s fleet of 84 vehicles and 93 pieces of heavy equipment on the move and the City operating. **WAY TO GO GUYS!**



EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH. (Pictured L-R) Public Works Director Kenneth Jansky, Assistant City Manager Susan Rash, **FRANK ROHAN**, **PATRICK SPILLERS**, **RICHARD OLSON**, **RODNEY WROBLISKI**, and City Manager Jack Hamlett.

City bond rating upgraded to A+

Standard & Poor’s (S&P), considered to be the foremost provider of independent credit ratings, has upgraded the City’s Waterworks & Sewer Revenue Bond rating from A to A+. The upgrade affirms the financial stability of the City and shows confidence in the City’s financial position, as well as the way Rosenberg manages finances. The higher rating essentially means that, when necessary, the City can borrow money at lower interest rates. S&P provides investors with the independent benchmarks necessary to establish confidence when making financial decisions. The S&P rating is not considered a market rating nor a recommendation to buy, hold, or sell obligations.

Stay safe...protect yourself when temperatures drop.

February is very often the coldest month of the year for this part of Texas and therefore, we all do everything we can to stay warm including using gas-fueled furnaces, space or kerosene heaters, fireplaces or wood stoves - all of which could potentially produce poisonous carbon monoxide gases. Carbon monoxide gases are invisible, odorless and tasteless and can cause fatigue, chest pain, impaired vision, headaches, dizziness, confusion, nausea, and even death! Learn what you can do to protect yourself and your family from carbon monoxide poisoning. Contact the Rosenberg Fire Department at 832-595-3600 for information or visit the Texas Department of State Health Services at www.dshs.state.tx.us.

We have a solution to reduce the cause of pollution. Did you know that something as simple as rainwater running across your lawn and driveway can pollute your water? Rainwater, also known as storm water, which runs off streets, lawns, farm, and construction sites picks up fertilizers, dirt, pesticides, oil and grease, and other pollutants on the way to our streams, rivers, lakes, and finally, to our coastal waters -- is Storm Water Pollution -- THE most common cause of water pollution. Since WE ALL PLAY A ROLE IN CREATING THE POLLUTION in storm water runoff -- then WE ALL HAVE A ROLE IN REDUCING THE CAUSE. Your February utility bill includes information explaining how YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE and “Be the Solution to Pollution.” Make time to become familiar with this important issue.... and learn what YOU can do to help reduce the cause of pollution.

The Rosenberg Image Committee proudly recognizes the following businesses and residents for taking pride in where they live and do business.

February 2009 **Beautification Awards**

Terrance & Julia Martin
4303 Marre Tere

Thomas & Gerry Mensik
3608 Avenue O

Jose Pena & Ana Monge
4314 Juan Carlos

Tim & Melissa Wolff
2505 Madison

CONSTRUCTION ANNOUNCEMENT

Construction on Sanitary Sewer Improvements on Avenue D between 1st and Mulcahy Streets started January 19 and will continue for an estimated 60 days. Through-traffic will be limited from time to time and temporary road closures should be expected. Use 3rd or Walnut Streets to avoid construction delays.

RECYCLING IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO.

Recycling Center
3720 Airport Ave.
Open 24/7

Information
832-595-3960

Adopt-A-Pet

Rosenberg
Animal Control
1207 Blume Road
832-595-3490
8 AM - 5 PM
Monday-Friday
www.petfinder.com



Focus on... The Rosenberg Civic & Convention Center

If you're from Rosenberg or the surrounding area, then you have probably attended a meeting or special function at the City's meeting and event facility – the Rosenberg Civic and Convention Center. The convention center opened to the public in 2000, and is now considered to be *THE* affordable and convenient choice for successful corporate and leisure events.

However, clients of the facility are probably unaware that convention center staff does much more than just renting the facility. We are also responsible for meeting the needs of our residents by facilitating "civic" programs such as tennis and karate lessons, painting classes, and the occasional Defensive Driving class to name just a few. Additionally, we play a key role in the planning and the execution of Rosenberg Convention & Visitors Bureau events -- *Christmas in Rosenberg*, the *Family 4th Celebration*, and the popular *HOT Summer Concerts* held in our Historic Downtown District.

In addition to the "civic" programs held at the convention center, we host countless weekday meetings for City departments, committees, boards, and commissions, as well as regular meetings for local Municipal Utility Districts, West Fort Bend Management District, and the Rosenberg Development Corporation. Additionally, we work closely with Lamar Consolidated Independent School District to schedule their special off-campus meetings, and with both local sports organizations -- Rosenberg Little League and Rosenberg Roughnecks -- to schedule their use of City park facilities. And... come 5 o'clock each Friday evening until 6 o'clock each Sunday evening, staff transforms the convention center from a meeting facility to one for private events. Our weekend functions vary in purpose from birthday parties, wedding receptions, and baby showers, to Quinceaneras, as well as family and class reunions. We like to think that if you can name a celebration, we've held a successful event for it at the convention center! That being said, the key to our success is certainly our Staff.

Our Assistant Manager, **JEANA MANRIQUE**, a recent transferee from the City Manager's office, has added her fine-tuned organizational skills to the daily management of the facility and in working with our clients. Also key to our success is **SHERRI HATHORN**, our Reservations Clerk. Sherri has been with us for two and a half years and is usually the first voice a client hears when first calling the convention center!

Our newest employee is **MOSE GRAVES**, our Maintenance Technician. Mose's responsibilities are diverse and include taking charge for all room set-ups, daily maintenance of the facility, and a variety of other City-wide duties. We also employ part-time Private Rental Staff to assist us with our weekend events. We would have great difficulty meeting the needs of our private event clients without the help and experience of **Joe Reyna**, **David Ramirez**, and **Richard Bijarro**.

I am proud to say that I've been with the City for six and a half years – first as a Reservations Clerk and now as the Manager of the facility. My tenure at the facility has helped me gain a comprehensive knowledge of all things having to do with the convention center, from air conditioners to maintenance contracts.

If you happen to be one of the few who hasn't "spent time" at the Rosenberg Civic and Convention Center, I encourage you to make time to tour the facility, meet our staff, and learn about all we have to offer.

Go to www.VisitRosenberg.com for more information on the facility; and please, give us a call at 832-595-3520 to book your next corporate meeting or private event. We all look forward to serving you.



**Mose Graves, Sherri Hathorn,
Lowry Johnston, Jeana Manrique**

Lowry Johnston, Convention Center Manager



Initiative + Motivation = Recognition

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH.

(Pictured L-R) Fire Chief Kathleen Hutchens, Captain Adam Carlin, Firefighter Dwain Ustynik, Firefighter Ewald Stein, City Manager Jack Hamlett.

Two Rosenberg Firefighters were named Employees of the Month acknowledging their willingness to assume extra responsibilities while demonstrating exemplary leadership. Two years ago, **EWALD STEIN** and **DWAIN USTYNIK** assumed training duties for their respective shifts when the Department's Training Officer retired, and have succeeded in their training efforts while continuing to meet the demands of their positions as Firefighters. At the February 13th awards presentation, City Manager Jack Hamlett noted that both Stein and Ustynik "demonstrated high levels of initiative and motivation in filling the Training Officer positions, and promoting training and safety within the Department." **GOOD JOB, GENTLEMEN!**

GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION Saturday, May 9, 2009

The City of Rosenberg will hold a General Municipal Election for the purpose of electing a Mayor and six council members. The election, held in conjunction with Lamar Consolidated Independent School District (LCISD) Trustee Elections, will be held on Saturday, May 9, 2009. Early voting will be held at the LCISD Administration Building, 3911 Avenue I, from April 27 through May 5. A detailed Early Voting Schedule follows along with May 9 Election Day polling locations. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on May 9, Election Day; and, if required, a Run-Off Election will be held on Saturday, June 13. Qualified voters are to cast their ballots in the Council District in which they reside and vote for: one candidate for Mayor, one candidate for each At Large Council Position, and one candidate for the single-member Council District in which the voter resides.

EARLY VOTING - LCISD ADMINISTRATION BUILDING - 3911 AVENUE I

Monday-Friday	April 27 - May 1	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Monday	May 4	7 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Tuesday	May 5	7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 9 ELECTION DAY POLLING LOCATIONS 7 A.M. TO 7 P.M.

Council District 1	Precincts 1048, 1072 Wessendorff Middle School, 5201 Mustang Avenue
Council District 2	Precincts 1008, 1012, 1015, 1024, 1025(p), 1039, 1054 Bowie Elementary School, 2304 Bamore Road
Council District 2	Precinct 1013(p) George Junior High School, 4601 Airport Road
Council District 3	Precincts 1016, 1037 Travis Elementary School, 2700 Avenue K
Council District 4	Precincts 1007, 1013(p), 1074 George Junior High School, 4601 Airport Road
Council District 4	Precinct 1025(p) Bowie Elementary School, 2304 Bamore Road

DIRECT INQUIRIES TO:

CITY OF ROSENBERG CITY SECRETARY, 2110 4TH STREET, ROSENBERG, TX 77471 TEL: 832-595-3340
FORT BEND COUNTY ELECTIONS DIVISION TEL: 281-341-8670

NOTICE OF ROAD CLOSURE

On Friday, February 23, Bamore Road will be closed to traffic from the US-59 Frontage Road to the intersection with Klauke Road.

The street improvement project will improve access and drainage along Bamore Road.

Residents and area businesses should utilize FM-529 to enter and exit Bamore and Blume Roads.

Access to TX-36 may be reached via Southgate Drive.

View the Project Detour Map at City Hall Annex, 2220 4th Street, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday - Friday.

Questions?
Call 832-595-3500

**PROJECT
AUTHORIZED BY
THE 2006 BOND
REFERENDUM**

The Rosenberg Image Committee proudly recognizes the following residents and businesses for taking pride in where they live and do business.

March 2009 Beautification Awards

NewFirst
National Bank
2214 Avenue H

Nguyen
Commercial Center
1912 Avenue H

Tony & Hope Lopez
817 Damon



Focus on... Code Enforcement

Home improvement projects are successful when homeowners take the time to educate themselves on the building code requirements. Permits are required before beginning construction for new buildings, remodeling, home additions, or for various property improvements. There are several reasons and advantages for doing home and/or commercial projects with a building permit, including assuring the work is completed safely and properly.

To assist our residents and their contractors to navigate permitting, the City has assembled dedicated employees in the Code Enforcement/Permitting Department to answer permit questions and concerns. Members of the Department are responsible for issuing permits for Building, Electrical, Mechanical, Plumbing, Itinerant Vendors, and others. Department members work closely with residents and contractors to facilitate inspections.

Led by **Wayne Jory**, Rosenberg Police Department Lieutenant of Operations, the Department's goal is to provide the best customer service possible and ensure the safety of Rosenberg's residents.

The City Building Official, **Fernando Garcia**, has worked for the City since 2007, beginning as a Building Inspector II. Fernando has 15 years construction field experience and out of those 15, over 6 years performing inspections.

Code Enforcement Officer, **Federico DeLeon**, is a Registered Code Enforcement Officer. He ensures that residents maintain their property per the standards mandated by the International Property Maintenance Code and State dictated laws. Federico is also responsible for overseeing adherence to the City Ordinances passed by City Council. Some of those ordinances consist of high grass, junk vehicles, dangerous buildings, bandit signs, complaints received from Citizens and various other nuisances.

Recently joining the staff as a Code Enforcement Inspector is **Rose Pickens**. Rose has worked diligently with various organizations as it relates to the City and will be a valuable asset to the Department.

The City's Building Inspectors, **J. B. Morein** and **Byron Smith**, both have extensive backgrounds in the construction field. Their primary focus is to ensure that all construction is built to the current codes, built in a safe manner, and is able to pass inspections throughout each stage of construction. The Inspectors also review Residential and Miscellaneous plans for accuracy before projects are started and permits issued.

The Department's Support Staff includes **Sherri Nichols**, **Renee LeLaurin**, **Stephanie Gutierrez**, and **Johana Garcia** who work to expedite answers to questions from citizens, contractors, and other City Departments as they relate to permits being issued, inspections, code issues, and plans being reviewed. The individual support staff team members work together to compliment the Department's customer service. The Support Staff also works closely with the City's Police and Fire Departments, and assists the Planning, Health, and Utilities Departments.

All Code Enforcement personnel are available to answer questions that the Public may have, whether in the office, in the field, or by phone. The Public is encouraged to ask questions regarding code enforcement, permitting, licensures and City Ordinances by visiting their offices located in the City Hall Annex at 2220 4th Street, or by calling 832-595-3500.



Code Enforcement

First Row: Sherri Nichols, Johana Garcia.
Second Row: Renee LeLaurin, Lt. Wayne Jory, Stephanie Gutierrez, Rose Pickens.
Third Row: Federico DeLeon, Fernando Garcia, J. B. Morein, Byron Smith.

City-Wide Spring CleanUp - 8 am - 5 pm, Saturday, May 2
Collection Centers: Sunset & Brazos Parks
Learn more. Call 832-595-3960

The annual Spring CleanUp, a project of the Image Committee, is funded by the City of Rosenberg as a public service for Rosenberg residents only.

GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION Saturday, May 9, 2009

The City of Rosenberg will hold a General Municipal Election for the purpose of electing a Mayor and six council members. The election, held in conjunction with Lamar Consolidated Independent School District (LCISD) Trustee Elections, will be held on Saturday, May 9, 2009.

Early Voting: April 27 - May 1 (8am-5pm), May 4 (7am-7pm), May 5 (7am-7pm)

Election Day: Saturday, May 9 (7am-7pm)

Call 832-595-3340 or 281-341-8670 for more information

WWW.CITYOFROSENBERG.COM



Safety & Wellness Committee Members Named Employees of the Month

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH.

(Pictured L-R) Front row: Diane Zepeda, Kaydey Brewster, Herman Hernandez, Sarah Lyde, City Manager Jack Hamlett. Back row: Paul Mendoza, Cathy Ezell, Pat Parma, Al Davis, Darrell Himly, Colin Davidson.

On March 5, members of the City's Safety & Wellness Committee were named Employees of the Month. Representing a cross section of City departments, the ten members are responsible for planning, organizing, and presenting information to their 200+ co-workers promoting workplace safety and employee wellness, as well as presenting the annual Employee Health Fair. The annual event provides an opportunity for employees to visit with local health care organizations to learn how to improve their health, as well as that of their family. The Health Fair is considered an important source of information for City staff. Members of the committee were honored as Employees of the Month based on the extraordinary efforts put into making the 2009 Health Fair meaningful and helpful for all City employees. CONGRATULATIONS TEAM!

Please pardon the dust....

Improvements to the Historic Downtown District began March 16 – thanks to the visionary efforts of the City's Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone #1 (TIRZ) who, in 1999, designated funds for infrastructure improvements to Historic Downtown Rosenberg – and thanks to Rosenberg citizens who, in 2006, approved a bond referendum to provide additional funding for sidewalk improvements to the downtown district. The improvements to the Historic Downtown District are a result of the joint efforts of the TIRZ Board and the Downtown Project Advisory Task Force, who worked with City Staff and the project engineers, TRC Solutions, to develop a vision for the improvements.

The 180-day project includes demolition and removal of existing sidewalks and curbs, installation of electrical and irrigation systems, construction of new sidewalks, curbs, handicap ramps, and planters. The new sidewalk surface will consist of concrete bordered by decorative interlocking pavers to provide a safe and appealing walking environment for visitors to the area. An important aspect of the construction project includes preservation of two historic horse hitching rings located in the 800 block of 3rd Street.

While the area will be considered an active construction zone for the duration of the project, pedestrian access to businesses along 3rd Street will be maintained during business hours. The construction project will start on 3rd Street between Avenues F and G and end on 3rd Street between Avenues G and H, with the block under construction closed to through traffic. Signage will be posted advising visitors to the area of the temporary road closure and encouraging shopping with 3rd Street merchants throughout the construction project.



April 2009 Beautification Awards

Joe & Barbara Eben
3614 Glenmeadow

Charles & Carol Edwards
1221 Sally Anne

Jose & Elvia Reyes
1040 Sally Anne

Silas Rodriguez
1410 Divin

Delores Rutowsky
1226 Francis

The Rosenberg Image
Committee thanks
you for taking pride
in where you live
and do business.

ROAD CLOSURE REMINDERS

**Bamore Road
is closed to
traffic from the
US-59 Frontage
Road to the
intersection with
Klauke Road.**

**3rd Street
between
Avenues F & G
is closed
for sidewalk
improvements.**

RECYCLING IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO.

Recycling Center
3720 Airport Ave.
Open 24/7

Information
832-595-3960



Focus on... Municipal Court

Rosenberg Municipal Court has general jurisdiction over all Class C misdemeanor offenses and Municipal Code violations committed within the city limits, and as allowed by law, within the extra territorial jurisdiction of the City that are punishable by fine only. The Mission of the City of Rosenberg's Municipal Court is to provide fair, impartial, and timely adjudication of misdemeanor offenses, and to comply with reporting requirements of the State of Texas.



Helen Wo

In the past, the City's Presiding Judge served as both Court Administrator and Presiding Judge; however, last fall, the City Council provided for a change in the administrative duties in the Court. Under the change, the City hired a new Municipal Court Clerk, Helen Wo, in October, 2008, to manage the court administration. Helen comes to the City with 11 years experience in Municipal Court operations, and passed Level III of the Texas Court Clerks Certification Program in 2005, and earned the title of Certified Municipal Court Clerk in 2006, through the Texas Court Clerks Certification Center, one of only 34 persons in the State of Texas to have achieved this certification. Helen supervises four full-time clerks and one part-time clerk.

Since October 2008, the Court has implemented new procedures to facilitate greater efficiency in handling cases by assigning a clerk to both Courtrooms on Court days to facilitate the handling of paperwork. In addition, on Court days, anyone who does not need to see the judge signs in, and is called to the window as soon as possible, helping people take care of their ticket more quickly. Additionally, the Court is making great strides in processing warrants as exhibited during the recent Warrant Round-Up in March -- the City served 148 warrants, and collected \$20,965, with another \$26,534 in warrants cleared through defendants sitting out their fines in jail, or through other means. A new system has been developed with the Police Department to facilitate more warrants being served on a regular basis.

The focus of the new leadership in the Court is to promote professionalism and teamwork within the staff, and to focus on good customer service and greater efficiency in the handling of cases. The staff of the Municipal Court Department takes great pride in their ability to implement guidelines and procedures for effective and efficient court operations to ensure compliance with State and local, laws, regulations and requirements, as well as to provide improvements in the efficiency of operations wherever possible to facilitate justice in the courtroom.

BOND PROJECTS SERVE OUR CITIZENS....



In 2006, Rosenberg voters overwhelmingly approved several bond projects.

So where are we on on these projects? The following represents a status report on the important quality-of-life projects.

911 Communication Center Expansion. *PROJECT COMPLETE.* The completed upgrade to the City's 911 center not only assists personnel with handling the increased number of calls for assistance, but enhances the City's compliance with Texas' Homeland Security Objectives.

Streets and Sidewalks. *PROJECTS IN PROGRESS.* The approved projects included financing street and drainage improvements along Bamore Road, building safe pedestrian routes to 6 area schools, as well as in the Historic Downtown District. Progress to date: Construction on Bamore Road Phase I began in March 2009; improved sidewalks to schools were completed last August; and sidewalk improvements in the Historic Downtown District on 3rd Street between Avenues F and H began in March.

Parks. *PROJECTS IN PROGRESS.* Projects to address the City's aging parks included: new restroom facilities at 4 parks, and constructing a regional sports complex at Seabourne Creek Park off FM-2218. As of this date, new restroom facilities have been completed and officially opened to the public at Brazos, Sunset, Travis, and Community Parks. Construction on Phase I of the Seabourne Creek Regional Sports Park began in April.

Water & Sewer Fees Increase June 1. *What does the increase mean to you?*

Of course it means your utility bill will go up.... the average statement for 2,000 gallons/month will see a 10¢ increase and the larger users, averaging 7,000 gallons/month, will see a 25¢ increase. The increases were approved by City Council on April 7th to maintain operations and address the important issue of the state mandated surface water conversion. The new rates, which will become effective on June 1st, changed water rates from a two-tiered system (35¢/1,000 gallons up to 5,000 gallons and 40¢/1,000 gallons over 5,000 gallons) to a flat rate of 40¢ per 1,000 gallons. These funds will be used for the surface water conversion. The base for the monthly sewer fee was increased from \$11 to \$12/month. So what else does all this mean to you.....? Future water and sewer increases can be expected in order to meet the State's mandate for surface water conversion by 2015. We know water is going to become a valuable commodity to every one of us -- and we also know we must conserve and reduce our over using this soon-to-be valuable commodity. Our Utilities Department already shares "tips" as to how to conserve, but you, the user, can take it a step further and visit www.wateriq.org to learn how you can conserve water on a daily basis. The "Water IQ: Know your Water" is a statewide public awareness water conservation program that educates Texans about water conservation.

Who maintains our infrastructure?

On May 5, City leaders proclaimed May 17-23 as National Public Works Week to celebrate the men and women who provide and maintain the infrastructure and services collectively known as public works. Instituted as a public education campaign by the American Public Works Association in 1960, National Public Works Week calls attention to the importance of public works in community life to enhance the prestige of the often unsung heroes of our society – the professionals who serve the public good every day with quiet dedication.

Looking for Summer Fun for your 6 to 13 year olds?

Rosenberg has partnered with the T. W. Davis YMCA to provide Rosenberg residents with a full-day, summer-long recreation program from June 15 to August 14.

The 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. program will be held at Bowie Elementary, 2304 Bamore Road. Lunch will be provided.

The Summer Recreation Program is provided exclusively to Rosenberg residents. Parents and Guardians may register participants from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., May 26-29 at the Parks and Pubic Works facility located at 3720 Airport Avenue. Questions? Call 832-595-3960.

Regional Sports Park Plan Recognized

Rosenberg received a Certificate of Recognition for the City's planning for the Seabourne Creek Regional Sports Park from the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC). The H-GAC Parks and Natural Areas Award Competition considered eighteen applications from communities with projects which serve as models for planning and project implementation for parks and natural areas in the H-GAC region. Per the H-GAC, "combined, these projects will add or enhance almost 600 acres of parks and natural areas, and include master plans for almost 5,000 acres." Jack Steele, H-GAC Executive Director commented that "the projects recognized are examples of the cooperative work being done across our region to enhance our quality of life today and tomorrow. As population growth continues, parks and natural areas will be critical community assets, and their development will require continued planning and commitment by public and private groups." The Seabourne Creek Regional Sports Park plan was selected by the H-GAC to receive a certificate of recognition in the Parks and Natural Areas Awards Competition in the Planning Process category. Jeff Taebel, Director of the H-GAC Community and Environmental Planning Department, noted that the Rosenberg project "serves as a model for other projects in the thirteen-county region; and that the H-GAC commends the leadership exhibited by the City of Rosenberg." The official ground breaking ceremony for the Regional Sports Park was held on April 15.

July 4 July 10 July 17 July 24 July 31 August 7 August 14 August 21

What do these dates have in common? HOT SUMMER FUN!

Learn more. Visit www.RosenbergEvents.com.

Water Efficiency Techniques

Think WET, Rosenberg!

Raise your water conservation awareness.....utilize these Water Efficiency Techniques to use less water and \$ave!

Replace your showerhead with a water-efficient model.

Take shorter showers.

Turn off the water while shaving and brushing your teeth.

Don't use the toilet as a trashcan.

Simple changes in your water use habits can make a difference in your water \$aving\$.

Water Efficiency Techniques

ROAD CLOSURE NOTIFICATIONS

Bamore Road remains closed to traffic from the US-59 Frontage Road to the intersection with Klauke Road.

3rd Street between Avenues F & G is closed for sidewalk improvements. It is anticipated this block will reopen to through traffic in early June.

3rd Street between Avenues G & H is likely to close for sidewalk improvements in early June.

May 2009 Beautification Awards

Milder & Company
1034 2nd Street

Cruz & Zoe Guzman
1604 Avenue I

Frederico & Liliana Montero
1066 Sally Anne

Rolando & Alice Ramirez
1024 Timberlane

Raul & Janie Saucedo
1307 Louise

The Rosenberg Image Committee thanks you for taking pride in where you live and do business.

RECYCLING IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO.

Recycling Center
3720 Airport Ave.
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Focus on... The City Manager's Office

As you may have noticed over the last year, the monthly newsletter started a series focusing on all City Departments highlighting their duties and our great employees. I would like to share a part of the City Manager's office.

Before shifting to how our Department operates, I would like to introduce myself and staff. My name is Jack Hamlett and I was appointed City Manager in February 2006. Shortly after, Assistant City Manager **SUSAN RASH** came aboard. My Executive Assistant **KAYE SUPAK** has been with the City since 1996 and has been invaluable since I arrived. With **TIFFANY YBARRA**, Administrative Assistant, **CRISTY HANZELKA**, Secretary II, and **BARBARA VICK**, Citizen Relations Coordinator, I have to say I have a great team. Collectively, this team brings 81 years of professional experience working in city governments. Now on to how the Department operates...

The City Manager is the chief executive officer for the City of Rosenberg and is appointed by the Mayor and City Council. The City Manager, under guidelines of the City Charter and Code of Ordinances, administers the policies of the City Council. This office coordinates, directs, and reviews the activities of all departments within the City of Rosenberg. The City Manager appoints all department heads of the various City departments, with the exception of the Police Chief, City Secretary and Municipal Court Judge, whom the Mayor/Council appoints. The City Manager is responsible to prepare the proposed annual budget for review and approval by City Council. The City Manager staff provides support to the Mayor and City Council, Rosenberg Development Corporation, and specific task forces appointed by City Council. This support includes preparing meeting agendas, information for meetings, resolutions, correspondence, and coordinating with other governmental entities.

The Citizen Relations Coordinator receives requests, complaints, and questions from the public. She records the request and forwards to the appropriate City Department for follow up. Citizens may call 832-595-3301.

In closing, I have enjoyed my tenure here in Rosenberg and I hope you continue to enjoy these monthly newsletters!

Jack S. Hamlett, City Manager



Pictured (L-R): Cristy Hanzelka, Kaye Supak, Barbara Vick, Jack Hamlett, Tiffany Ybarra, Susan Rash.

ID CHALLENGE

Can you identify where in Rosenberg the above picture was taken?
If so, call 832-595-3310 before June 30th.

Note: The ID Challenge is not open to City employees.

572 loads collected during 2009 Spring Clean-Up!



The annual Spring CleanUp, a project of the City's Image Committee and funded by the City as a public service, got the attention of Rosenberg residents who took advantage of the opportunity to discard items found around their homes and/or businesses. 132 loads were delivered to Brazos Park and 440 loads to Sunset Park. The annual event gives Rosenberg's residents the opportunity to pick-up and clean-up to make Rosenberg a cleaner more attractive place to live, work, and play. It worked.

Barbara Vick Named Employee of the Month

BARBARA VICK was honored as Employee of the Month based on her dedication to serving as the citizens of Rosenberg first point of contact with the City; and for exemplifying the City's "Value Statement" of having a personal and professional commitment to the community she serves. Nominations by Vick's peers noted that "she projects a positive image for Rosenberg and displays excellence every day," and that she is "dedicated, ethical, responsible, resourceful, consistent, and accountable to the citizens of Rosenberg." CONGRATS, BARBARA!



Rose Pickens Certified as Professional Code Enforcement Officer

After only three months with the City, **ROSE PICKENS** has earned her certification as a Professional Code Enforcement Officer. The Code Enforcement Association of Texas coordinates the Basic Code Enforcement Officer course which requires applicants to pass a written exam to receive certification. As mandated by the State of Texas, Code Enforcement Officer Pickens is required to attend regional meetings to obtain continuing education to renew the certification. OUTSTANDING JOB, ROSE!



Alfredo Garza & David Ramirez Earn TCEQ Certification



(L-R) Alfredo Garza & David Ramirez

ALFREDO GARZA and **DAVID RAMIREZ** completed training to earn Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) certifications for water distribution meeting State requirements to become a Class C Water Distribution Operator. Class C Water Distribution Operators are required to know the rules and regulations for public water systems, public health laws, safety procedures, basic first-aid, traffic-control and trench-safety procedures, diseases caused by waterborne organisms, sanitation and disinfection requirements, bacterial and chemical sampling requirements, and safety procedures for meters, flushing equipment, hydrants, pumps, and motors; and the critical safeguards of distribution systems including disinfection, sampling, and prevention and corrective maintenance procedures -- and that is just some of what they learn to receive TCEQ certification. GOOD JOB, GENTLEMEN!

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intersection with
Klauke Road.**

**3rd Street
between
Avenues G & H
is closed
for sidewalk
improvements.**

June 2009 Beautification Awards

Landscape Awards

Frances Christopoulos
3126 Turtle Creek Drive

Israel & Mary Delgado
2605 Allwright

Diane Dybala
2702 Lee Circle

Mr. & Mrs. James Pietsch
3014 Longhorn

Renovation Award

David's Tackle Box
David & Michelle Leach
3500 Avenue I

**Thank you for taking
pride in where you live
and do business.**

HURRICANE SEASON OFFICIALLY BEGAN JUNE 1.

NOW is the time to plan ahead to protect yourself, your family, and your property during hurricane season. Be aware of the potential hazards which could affect you and your home: flooding, high winds, tornadoes; and put together a Hurricane Emergency Supply Kit not forgetting the needs of your pets. But most importantly, **STAY INFORMED** if a hurricane develops.

Visit www.rosenberg.tx.us for helpful information and watch the municipal access channel (Comcast Channel 16).

RECYCLING IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO.

Recycling Center
3720 Airport Ave.
Open 24/7

Information
832-595-3960

July 4 July 10 July 17 July 24 July 31 August 7 August 14 August 21

What do these dates have in common? HOT SUMMER FUN!

Learn more. www.RosenbergEvents.com



RDC Invests in Rosenberg's Future

In 1995 Rosenberg voters approved the creation of the Rosenberg Development Corporation (RDC), a "Type B" economic development corporation funded by a one-half cent sales tax -- a popular tool used by over 440 Texas cities to promote economic development. So how does that sales tax funding work? Of the 8.25% sales tax paid by consumers shopping at Rosenberg retail establishments, one-half cent is directed to the RDC through the City from the State - and to date, the RDC has invested over \$11 million in Rosenberg's future using the sales tax.

State law authorizes the RDC to utilize these funds to engage in infrastructure projects related to promoting or developing new or expanded businesses, projects that improve the quality of life in the community such as parks, arts and culture, and entertainment facilities, and projects related to primary job creation. Primary jobs are those jobs that infuse new dollars into the local economy by creating or selling a product or service that is ultimately exported to regional, state, national, or international markets.



Installing RDC Funded Mile Markers
Pictured (L-R): Public Works, Street Division
Employees: Darryl Lindemann and Leroy Lopez.

For the last 14 years, the RDC has funded in part a number of projects that benefit Rosenberg citizens and business owners. A few of those important projects include the FM-723 overpass, the Reading Road/US-59 Interchange, the construction of the Rosenberg Civic and Convention Center, widening Bamore Road, and transportation gateway improvements.

Recently, the RDC funded the installation of sidewalk markers to assist residents who enjoy walking and running. Four inch yellow, non-reflective ceramic markers were placed at quarter mile intervals along 4th Street, Louise Street, and Lane Drive sidewalks so walkers and joggers can track their distance. RDC Board President Bill Knesek noted that "this project represents an innovative way to provide a benefit to the community at very little cost. The RDC believes this benefit will improve leisure and recreational opportunities for our residents while fostering a more active and healthy lifestyle in our community."

The RDC is a key component of the City's economic development program, and will continue to actively participate in business retention, expansion, and recruitment in partnership with the Rosenberg-Richmond Area Chamber of Commerce, Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce, Greater Fort Bend Economic Development Council, and the Greater Houston Partnership.

Activities of the RDC are guided by a Board of Directors which reports to the City Council. The Board is composed of seven members; four, including all of the officers, are appointed by City Council, and three members are City Councilors. The Board meets monthly and the public is encouraged to attend their open meetings. For more information, contact Matt Fielder, Economic Development Director, at 832-595-3339 or visit www.rosenbergcodedev.com.

The Rosenberg Development Corporation meets regularly on the second Thursday of each month at the Rosenberg Civic & Convention Center, 3825 TX-36 South. Meetings begin at 11:45 a.m. and the public is encouraged to attend. Contact the City Secretary's Office for a posted agenda or go to www.ci.rosenberg.tx.us to view.

ROSENBERG DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION PROJECTS ~ PAST & PRESENT

U.S. Highway 59 Frontage Roads ~ FM 723 Overpass
Street improvements on 4th Street from Parrott to Avenue M
Drainage improvements at the intersection of West Street and Bernard Avenue
Construction of the Rosenberg Civic & Convention Center
Reading Road/U.S. 59 Interchange ~ Expansion of Louise Street
Extension of Reading Road (FM2977 to Benton)
Infrastructure improvements at the Brazos Town Center ~ Reconstruction of Reese Road
Installation of mile markers along 4th Street, Louise Street, and Lane Drive
Widening of Bamore Road ~ Relocation of Spacek Road
Improvements to Seabourne Creek Drainage
FM 2218 Improvements (US 59 to Corporate Limits)
Transportation Gateway Improvements

Commitment + Love of Animals = Jackie Jurasek

City Manager Jack Hamlett tapped **JACKIE JURASEK**, Animal Control Supervisor, as Employee of the Month because of her "persistence, commitment, and love of animals which has helped ensure that many pets find homes."

In a nomination by one of Jurasek's peers, it was noted that she "is passionate about making every attempt to arrange pet adoptions, including working with Petfielder.com and advertising adoption opportunities." Jurasek's efforts were recently recognized by local media who highlighted the adoption of a Golden Retriever mix that caught the attention of a Dallas resident. Other adoptions have included out-of-state residents. Secondly, Jurasek has continue to maintain the City's Animal Control services while the other Animal Control officer has been on extended leave.

CONGRATULATIONS, JACKIE!



Pictured (L-R): City Manager Jack Hamlett, Megan Jurasek, JACKIE JURASEK, Lt. Wayne Jory, Police Chief Robert Gracia

Two of Rosenberg's Finest Receive President's Volunteer Service Awards

Rosenberg Police Officer **Kayla Dowdy** and Detective **Randy Weishiemer** have each earned a President's Volunteer Service Award for demonstrating the best of the American Spirit by their volunteer service.

Both Dowdy and Weishiemer were nominated for the award based on their volunteerism with the criminal justice students at Lamar Consolidated Independent School District and with the Police Department's Explorers organization.

The President's Volunteer Service Award program honors Americans, who, by their demonstrated commitment and example, inspire others to engage in volunteer service.



**President's Volunteer
Service Award Recipients:
Officer Kayla Dowdy and
Detective Randy Weishiemer**

Important Waste Collection Reminder

Allied Waste, Rosenberg's Solid Waste Management Vendor, will observe the following 2009 holidays: Independence Day (Saturday, July 4); Labor Day (Monday, September 7); Thanksgiving Day (Thursday, November 26); and Christmas Day (Friday, December 25).

If any of the above holidays fall on one of your regularly scheduled garbage collection days, your garbage will be picked up on the NEXT SCHEDULED collection day; not the day following the holiday. Therefore: If your garbage is to be collected on Labor Day (Monday, September 7), your garbage will be picked up on Thursday, September 10. Garbage scheduled for collection on Thanksgiving (Thursday, November 26) will be collected the next Monday, November 30; and garbage scheduled for pickup on Friday, November 27 will be collected the next Tuesday, December 1. Garbage to be collected on Christmas Day (Friday, December 25) will be collected on Tuesday, December 29.

Help us help you. Questions for our readers...

This newsletter has been distributed since January 2008 with the goal of informing you, our valued residents, of citywide operations, services, projects, and activities. Each edition has included overviews of City departments; announcements including Beautification Awards to foster community pride; and timely information such as Hurricane Preparation. We hope you have found this publication informative, timely, and one that you look forward to receiving each month; however, it's time to ask a couple of important questions.... *Are we hitting the mark?* And, more importantly, *what would YOU like to see included in the City's monthly newsletter?* We want to hear from you. Help us help you! Please share your comments by calling Rebecca Covell at 832-595-3525 or by emailing your comments to rebeccac@ci.rosenberg.tx.us.

Think WET, Rosenberg!
It's summer. It's hot and lawns need watering...

Now is the time to think about what steps can be taken to conserve water ... and save money!

Did you know that outdoor water use can account for 50-80% of home water use?

Practice these WATER EFFICIENCY TECHNIQUES and make a difference in your water savings.

Water your lawn only when needed.

Water early in the morning or late in the evening.

Water only your plants -- not the sidewalk, driveway, or street.

Mow your lawn only when the grass is dry.

Use lots of mulch! It helps to retain moisture, reduce runoff, and reduce erosion.

Simple changes in your water use habits can make a difference in your water saving\$.

For more information on conserving water when maintaining your landscaping, visit waterwisetexas.org; to learn more how you can conserve water on a daily basis, go to www.wateriq.org.

ROAD REMINDERS

Bamore Road is closed to traffic from the US-59 Frontage Road to the Intersection with Klauke Road.

The intersection at Bamore and Bernard is closed for approximately 3 more weeks.

3rd Street between Avenues G & H is closed for sidewalk improvements.

Street repairs are scheduled throughout the City during the summer. Go to the City website for a comprehensive listing.

July 2009 Beautification Awards

Bamboo Village *
Trish & Cheng Chen, Owners
5151 Avenue H

Juanita Escamilla
714 Habitat Lane

James & Patti Everett
1211 Frost Street

Les & Jane Krancher
1703 Avenue R

Westin Homes
Michael Tran, Manager
1043 Ellis Grove Lane

*** Renovation Award**

Thank you for taking pride in where you live and do business.

RECYCLING IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO.

Recycling Center
3720 Airport Ave.
Open 24/7

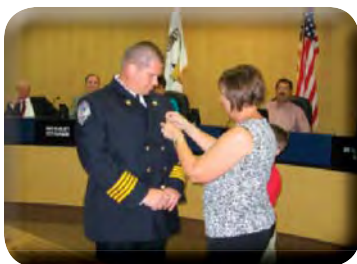
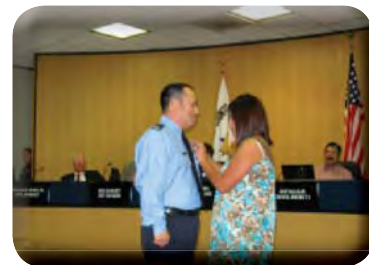


"The Fire Service is very rich in tradition. The badge signifies an important part of belonging to one particular organization and the rank achieved in that organization. The badge pinning ceremony publicly acknowledges that these men are a part of the Rosenberg Fire Department by the presentation and pinning of their badge and by allowing a special person in their life to pin the badge on the uniform. The pinning of the Rosenberg Fire Department badge is symbolic of bringing family and organization together." **Chief Kathleen Hutchens**

Fire Department brings family and organization together

A new tradition fraught with symbolism began in Rosenberg in 2008 – recognizing Rosenberg Fire Department promotions and new members to the Department at an official badge pinning ceremony held before City Council and the public. The first badge pinning ceremony in November 2008 recognized seven new members of the department; and in July, four more firefighters participated in the Department's second badge pinning ceremony. Those firefighters honored included:

Michael Garcia started his fire service career in 1995 as a Rosenberg volunteer and became a full-time firefighter in 1998. In 2002 he accepted the position of Inspector/Investigator with Richmond's Fire Department, but returned to Rosenberg in 2008 as the City's Rental Property Inspector. Michael holds his firefighter certification from Wharton County Junior College's Fire Academy, and is a certified Fire Inspector, Arson Investigator, Fire Instructor, Certified Peace Officer, and also holds Advanced Firefighter Certification. His wife, Michelle and son, Michael, presented his Rosenberg Fire Department Badge.



Assistant Fire Chief **Darrell**

Himly started his career in the fire service as a Rosenberg Junior Volunteer in 1983 and became a full-time firefighter in 1990. Darrell was promoted to Lieutenant in 2002; and this past February, was promoted to Assistant Fire Chief. Darrell holds an Associates Degree in Fire Science Technology and received his firefighter certification through the Texas A&M Fire School, and has since received his Master Firefighting Certification. He is also a certified Fire Inspector and Emergency Medical Technician. Darrell's wife, Gayle, and their son Connor, presented him with his badge.

New Rosenberg firefighter, **Trey Roznovsky**, came to the Department in May with firefighting experience with the Cy-Fair Volunteer Fire Department. Trey attended the Cy-Fair Fire Academy obtaining his Basic Firefighting Certification and EMT certification. Trey's Captain from the Cy-Fair Volunteer Fire Department, David Baubie, had the honor of presenting Trey with his badge.



Dwain Ustynik, who started his firefighting career in 1994 as a Rosenberg volunteer, was

promoted to Fire Lieutenant this past May. Following Dwain's obtaining firefighter certification from the Texas A&M Fire School, he was hired as a Rosenberg full-time firefighter in 2000. Dwain is a certified Fire Inspector, Fire Instructor, EMT, and has certification in Advanced Firefighting. His wife Courtney, and son, Chance, presented his badge.

The Rosenberg Fire Department is made up of full-time paid and volunteer firefighters who provide fire, rescue, and first responder service to approximately 80 square miles of territory in the City and in Rosenberg's ETJ. In addition to emergency operations, the Department conducts building and rental property inspections, fire prevention and fire extinguisher classes, cooperates with area hospitals in the operation of Baby Safe, and participates in the statewide Smoke Alarms in Every Home campaign which equips homes with smoke alarms at no charge. For information on Rosenberg Fire Department services, programs, and volunteer service opportunities, call 832-595-3600 or visit the Administrative Offices at 1012 4th Street.

City Council focuses on quality-of-life park improvements

In June, City Council approved a plan by Parks and Recreation Director, Darren McCarthy, to replace playground equipment at five City parks and authorized spending over \$267,000 to make it happen. The Playground Improvements Plan, developed after a thorough safety inspection of current playground equipment, includes Sunset, Travis, Brazos, Garcia, and Community Parks as recipients of new playground equipment, expending 2006 Bond funds in three voting zones and four park zones to assure the park improvements have a City-wide effect. All new playground equipment will meet current Consumer Project Safety Commission and American Society for Testing Materials guidelines; and in each case, will be installed over ADA accessible surfacing.



**CONCEPTUAL IMAGE OF NEW
SUNSET PARK PLAYGROUND STRUCTURE**

Under the Playground Improvements Plan: a playground structure and the Rocket will be replaced at Sunset Park; Travis Park will get a new playground structure, swings, and tire swing; Brazos Park will get a new structure and swings; and Community Park will get a new playground structure. The fifth park in the Playground Improvements Plan, Macario Garcia Park, would receive a new playground structure and slide. Macario Garcia Park recently received \$20,000 of improvements paid for with Parkland Dedication Funds. In each case, old and outdated equipment will be removed from the parks and replaced with new ADA compliant equipment.

Since City Council's approval of the playground improvements, a number of Rosenberg residents with fond memories of growing up around, or on, "the Rocket" at Sunset Park, have asked that the rocket structure be preserved. Director McCarthy has reported staff is researching several options to display the Sunset Park (current) Rocket as a "days gone by" memorial for residents to view and reminisce of their youth.

Funding for the Playground Improvements Plan was authorized in 2006 when voters overwhelmingly approved an \$11.5 million bond package of four quality-of-life projects which focused on the needs of the residents and issues associated with growth, including addressing the City's aging parks.



**SEABOURNE CREEK REGIONAL SPORTS COMPLEX
WILL BE OPEN FOR LITTLE LEAGUE
OPENING DAY IN 2010**

The construction on the much anticipated regional sport complex at Seabourne Creek Park is on schedule. The sports complex, approved by Rosenberg voters in the 2006 Bond Referendum, began construction in April of this year. Bass Construction, the contractor on the project, is constructing three little league baseball fields, one girls' softball field, and one multi-use football/soccer field which are all tentatively scheduled to be completed by Little League's opening day in 2010.

Director McCarthy reported "the project is on schedule and moving quickly. The fields were seeded in July, the backstop netting and restrooms have been installed, and Fort Bend County has started the road work. Punch-out work is expected to be completed soon."

The \$2.5 million sports complex located on 368 acres off FM-2218, south of US-59, was prioritized as the "number one immediate-term priority" in the City's Parks and Recreation Master Plan, and the specific needs for the overall project are outlined in Fort Bend

County's Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master plan, as well as the City's Parks and Recreation Master Plan. When completed in its entirety, the Seabourne Creek Regional Sports Complex will provide outdoor recreational facilities for Rosenberg residents and Fort Bend County.

Rainfall is below average therefore, water use throughout the City could substantially increase. Simple changes in your water use habits can make a difference in your water \$aving\$. For more information visit www.waterwisetexas.org or www.wateriq.org.

ROAD CLOSURES

Bamore Road is closed to traffic from the US-59 Frontage Road to the intersection with Klauke Road through mid-August.

A TxDOT road reconstruction project on SH36 between Avenues H & M began July 30 and will last for 60 working days. Lane closures should be expected.

Street repairs are scheduled throughout the City this summer.

Go to www.ci.rosenberg.tx.us for a comprehensive listing.

August 2009 Beautification Awards

Pedro & Yolanda Barron
1023 Junction Street

Gilbert & Esther Deleon
903 Seabourne Meadows

Jerome Kulcak
1805 Allen Street

Paul & Marchita Priest
2334 Mons

Elsie Slawinski
1805 Frost

Thank you for taking pride in where you live and do business.

We would still like to hear from you! Your comments about this newsletter are important to the success of the publication.

rebeccac@ci.rosenberg.tx.us

832-595-3524



Be a part of National Night Out... *America's Night Out Against Crime*

From 7-10 p.m. on Tuesday, October 6, communities and law enforcement agencies throughout the State of Texas will join together and participate in the **26th Annual National Night Out (NNO)** - the evening each year that Rosenberg can showcase our community pride and spirit and strengthen the partnership between citizens and law enforcement.

NNO, a year-long community building campaign sponsored by the **National Association of Town Watch** in partnership with **Target®**, is designed to: heighten crime prevention awareness; generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime programs; strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back. Along with the traditional outside lights and front porch vigils, most cities and towns now celebrate NNO with a variety of special citywide and neighborhood events such as block parties, cookouts, and visits from local law enforcement. The NNO involved 37 million people in 15,449 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities, and military bases worldwide in 2008; and NNO 2009 is expected to be even larger.

Rosenberg's Police Department is preparing for this year's NNO event and encourages neighborhoods to host NNO parties so neighbors can get to know each other and forge alliances with the people in their community and the Rosenberg Police Department. If anyone is interested in hosting a NNO event - be it a barbecue, an ice cream social, or any other type of gathering - contact the Police Department to register the activity. There is no charge to register the event. Rosenberg police officers will visit registered parties to provide safety tips to make homes and the community less desirable to criminals.

Target®, located at 23912 Commercial Drive, is hosting a NNO event that will include moonwalks, cotton candy, and most importantly, parents will be able to receive information to help their families stay safe. The **Target®** NNO event will be held from 7-10 p.m. in the parking lot in front of their Brazos Town Center location.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6

National Night Out demonstrates the positive value of a strong community and police partnership based on a mutual concern for safety - and sends the message that crime will not be tolerated.

HOST A NEIGHBORHOOD NNO EVENT

Get a group of neighbors together, make an event plan, including the location, time, estimated attendance, and call 832-595-3739 to register your NNO party. There is no cost to register.

Rocket "Blastoff" Party scheduled for October 29

The Rocket at Sunset Park will soon be replaced with new equipment that meets current Consumer Product Safety Commission and American Society for Testing Materials guidelines....but the popular Rocket won't be going far -- it will "blastoff" to the Seabourne Creek Sports Complex to serve as a display of days-gone-by. The Rocket Blastoff Party is set for October 29 at Sunset Park and will include, among other to-be-announced activities, asking children to come dressed as astronauts or aliens. Watch for details of this once-in-a-lifetime event on the City's municipal access channel (Comcast 16), the City's website, or in the local newspapers.



Policies apply when reserving and using City parks... The City is committed to providing quality park facilities and has adopted policies for the use of the City's parks, pavilions, athletic fields, and gazebos. The Park Reservations and Facility Use Policies covers everything from making reservations, payments, supervision, set up and clean-up, cancellations, and what to do in the case of an emergency. To obtain a copy, visit the Rosenberg Civic & Convention Center at 3825 Texas 36 South, the Parks Office at 3720 Airport Road, or download the file at www.ci.rosenberg.tx.us. To reserve a park facility, visit the Civic & Convention Center from 8 am to 5 pm Monday-Friday. Questions should be directed to 832-595-3960.

AND THE WINNERS ARE...

The June INSIDER included an ID CHALLENGE which asked readers to identify the location where the Team City Manager photo was taken. The correct answer was: The pond at Brazos Town Center. Our congratulations to the observant readers who correctly identified the location in the first ID CHALLENGE.

LINDA WILKINSON

MINNIE VILLALOBOS

Lots of options apply when it comes to paying utility bills.

Most INSIDER readers are probably unaware of the many options the City has in place to make paying utility bills more convenient and less time consuming. Keep the following in mind when its time to pay your utility bill: The Customer Service windows at City Hall are now open from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm Monday-Thursday and from 8 am to 5 pm on Friday for those customers wishing to interact with our Customer Service representatives. For those customers who would rather "drive by" - a drop box for utility payments (no cash, please!) is located on the south side of City Hall. Customers can charge their payments to a credit card (Visa and Master Card only) by calling 832-595-3400 during regular business hours; however, a 5% processing fee will be applied to the transaction. But the ultimate time saver is Automatic Bank Drafting, a convenient way for utility customers to pay with no additional costs. Under this payment option, the utility bill payment is simply drafted from the customer's bank account on the due date, but the customer continues to receive a monthly statement to allow the monitoring of their water usage. Residential customers ages 65+ are eligible for a utility bill discount and penalty exemption on their principle residence for which the customer is responsible for the monthly payment. Call 832-595-3400 to learn more about your payment options.

Chief Hutchens serves on prestigious panel...

Fire Chief Kathy Hutchens recently had the honor of being invited by FEMA to serve on a Pier Review Panel charged with evaluating applications for the Assistance to Firefighter Fire Station Construction Grant. The Grant, funded by \$210 million from the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, is part of the economic stimulus package, and was included for the expansion and/or modification to existing fire stations or for the construction of new facilities. The 50 member panel, made up of members from all facets of the fire service - career, volunteers, and union - reviewed 1000 of the 6000 applications received.

"Congress funded this grant to stimulate the economy and provide critical funds for fire service needs. Applicants had approximately six weeks to prepare their application by the July 10 submission date. It is a credit to the 6000 departments who worked rapidly and diligently to provide the necessary information for the application," said Hutchens.



Downtown Vision is a Reality...

Thanks to the efforts and planning of the Downtown Merchants of Rosenberg (DMOR), an event celebrating the completion of the Sidewalk Improvement and Lighting Projects was held Saturday, August 1. The day began with a photo shoot re-creating a photograph taken 95 years ago in the now Historic Downtown District. More than 185 residents, guests, members of City Council, members of the Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone #1 Board, and members of DMOR congregated for what will surely become a photograph Rosenberg residents in the year 2104 will appreciate. Mayor Joe M. Gurecky has stated that "these improvements demonstrate the community's commitment to energize the historic heart of the City while preserving Rosenberg's rich heritage and history." This was truly demonstrated during the August 1st event.



[For information on the purchase of reprints of the 1914 and 2009 photo, call 832-595-3330 or pickup an order form at Another Time Soda Fountain.]

Like the blue travel gnome, Rosenberg can show up anyplace!

Grant Rosenberg recently wrote asking for imprinted items with his family name - *Rosenberg*. Mr. Rosenberg's request was gladly filled and included a couple of Rosenberg coasters; one of which was sent to him in France and showed up on Paris' Champs-Élysées in July!

While the Rosenberg coaster might not be the little blue gnome - it does seem to get around! You never know where "Rosenberg" will show up next!



ROAD CLOSURES

A TxDOT road reconstruction project on SH36 between Avenues H & M began July 30 and will last for 60 working days. Lane closures should be expected.

September Beautification Awards

Leo & Rosa Conango
1319 Steven's Court

Ruben & Corina Fonseca
5502 Taylan Lane

Dennis & Judy Hafer
1801 James

Robert & Holly Kubala
1203 Lindsey

Mr. & Mrs. Jose Zelaya
2012 Old Creek Drive

Thank you for taking pride in where you live and do business.

RECYCLING IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO.

Recycling Center
3720 Airport Ave.
Open 24/7

Information
832-595-3960

The next INSIDER will have a new look - four pages packed with timely information and announcements.

Let us know what you think.

Your comments about this newsletter are important to the success of the publication.

rebeccac@ci.rosenberg.tx.us



You asked for it... your ad valorem tax rate has been reduced.

At City Council's August 8, 2009 Workshop to consider the City's operating budget for the upcoming year, Mayor Joe Gurecky suggested the City's ad valorem tax rate be reduced to \$.50; and with that, City staff went to work recommending budget reductions without impacting City services and capital improvement projects throughout the City, while awaiting final 2009 taxable value statistics from the Fort Bend Central Appraisal District (CAD). The final CAD taxable values represented a slight increase in the City's property tax base – and that was a good sign for Rosenberg property owners and their tax bills.

Thanks to the direction of City Council and the efforts of City staff, the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 budget was reduced to accommodate the reduction in the ad valorem tax rate from \$.5202/100 valuation to \$.50.

So how does this reduction impact your property tax bill? The average taxable value of a residence homestead in the City last year was \$95,172 and based on the rate last year of \$.5202/\$100, the amount of taxes imposed last year was \$495.08. The average taxable value of a residence homestead in the City this year is \$95,357; therefore, the adopted tax rate of \$.50 of the taxable value imposes a total tax bill of \$476.785 on the average home.

Texas Roadhouse to host October 29th fundraiser to benefit the Rosenberg Fire Department.

The Texas Roadhouse Story is simple. Legendary Food, Legendary Service[®] !!!

And now, Texas Roadhouse can add to their story that they are not just about steaks – they are also about supporting the Rosenberg Fire Department.

Fire Chief Kathy Hutchens has announced that Rosenberg's Texas Roadhouse at Brazos Town Center will host a community fundraiser luncheon for the Fire Department on Thursday, October 29 from 11 am to 2 pm.

Fire personnel will participate in the special fundraising luncheon serving as greeters, assisting with serving guests, and according to Chief Hutchens, some might take on a new role in "entertainment."

"Everyone having lunch at the Texas Roadhouse that day will get a hearty meal, enjoy some creative firefighter entertainment, and then pay what they choose to pay -- or donate -- for the lunch and the experience. The Texas Roadhouse is generously donating all the proceeds to the Fire Department and we are planning to use those donations to supplement funding for some much needed equipment for the Rosenberg Fire Department" reported Hutchens. "The Texas Roadhouse Manager, Richard Whitmore, and Marketer Sonya Kuni are enthusiastically looking forward to this event. They want this to be an event that will significantly impact the department while still being fun for our citizens."

The public is invited to this not-to-be-missed fundraiser for the Rosenberg Fire Department. Questions may be directed to 832-595-3600 or fire@ci.rosenberg.tx.us.



Firefighters Jason Kosler, Jason Johns, George Velasquez, Jr., Bobby Teichman, and Lt. Dwain Ustynik are poised to serve and entertain at the October 29th Texas Roadhouse community fundraiser. The event will raise funds to purchase equipment for the Rosenberg Fire Department.

Quick acting firefighters tapped for Employees of the Month

On August 7, the Rosenberg Fire Department responded to a mutual aid call from the Fulshear Fire Department to fight a wild land fire -- a fire that eventually included battling flames in the tops of trees 30-40' in the air. Firefighters Justin Jurek and Michael Parthum were part of Rosenberg's firefighting team responding to the mutual aid call. Rosenberg Fire Captain Adam Carlin reported that "both Jurek and Parthum were on the East side of the blaze when the fire spread into a pine forest reserve and witnessed a large portion from one of the trees spilt and fall to the ground pushing a firefighter and private citizen into a ravine and under the burning tree. After calling in a May-Day for additional help, Jurek pushed into the ravine to extricate the trapped individuals while Parthum stayed at the top to transport them to a fire vehicle to await the arrival of fire personnel." Carlin reported that both individuals were accessed by the EMS and not transported to an area hospital. In the presentation of the Employee of the Month Award to Jurek and Parthum, Assistant City Manager Robert Gracia highly praised the firefighters noting that "were it not for their quick response, life threatening injuries very well could have been sustained by the firefighter and private citizen caught in the middle of this serious fire." Upon learning of the firefighters receiving the Employee of the Month awards, Assistant Fire Chief Darrell Himly said "I am proud that these men are being honored for their actions. These firefighters utilized their training and worked together to make this rescue."



Pictured (L-R): Assistant City Manager Robert Gracia, Assistant Fire Chief Darrell Himly, Firefighter Justin Jurek, Volunteer Firefighter Michael Parthum, Fire Chief Kathy Hutchens.



Dowdy promoted to Police Sergeant

The Rosenberg Police Department has announced the promotion of Kayla Dowdy to the rank of sergeant. Sgt. Dowdy, who has over 20 years in law enforcement, began her career with the Matagorda County Sheriff's Office and then with the Katy Independent School District as a detective. She came to Rosenberg as a patrol officer and then worked as a detective. Dowdy's training and experience includes matters of domestic and family violence including crimes against children. She also works closely with Explorers Post #2120.

Assistant Chief of Police Dallis Warren noted that "Sgt. Dowdy has proven herself to be an asset to the Department. She works well with her peers and continues to be a leader. Her promotion to Sergeant is sure to be a benefit to the organization as a whole."

Know the steps if you are planning a home construction project.

The City's Permits Department is responsible for reviewing plans and issuing all permits for construction. Many types of construction activities require a permit; however, some construction activities do not. General remodeling of your residence does not require a permit, such as replacing carpet, replacing kitchen cabinets, replacing sheetrock and insulation, and painting the exterior of the house. However, if your construction involves structure additions - such as adding a bedroom, additional living space, or converting a garage to living space -- a permit would be required. Additionally, modifications to any plumbing, mechanical, or electrical work would also require a permit. To apply for a construction permit, bring your plans to the Permits Department at 2220 4th Street to complete a Building Permit Application. Following receipt of your application and plan review fee, the review process will begin. Once the construction plans are approved, a building permit will be issued. A series of inspections will also be conducted by the Permits Department throughout the construction, and then a final inspection and certificate of occupancy will be issued upon completion. To determine if a permit is required for your construction project or if you need details on the permitting process, contact the Permits Department at 832-595-3500.

Identity Theft Policies protect you!

Identity theft is a serious crime that occurs when someone uses your personal, identifying information including your name, Social Security or credit card numbers, without your permission. The Federal Trade Commission estimates that over 9 million Americans have their identities stolen every year; and to address this growing trend and to reduce the risk to our customers, the City established a set of policies to safeguard new and existing customer information. The policy, known as the Identity Theft Prevention Program, formally adopts "Red Flag" safeguards already in place by the City to protect the security and confidentiality of customer information. This proactive measure establishes a fair, ethical, and honest business environment for all persons doing business with the City. Minimize your chance of becoming an identity theft victim and learn the steps to take to minimize the damage should a theft occur. The Federal Trade Commission has information to help. Learn more. Visit www.ftc.org.

October Beautification Awards

Isabel Chapa
1308 2nd Street

Stephen & Deborah Holmes
3212 Airport Avenue

Dr. Vi Tran
1710 1st Street/SH36

James Petrosky & Ann McDonald
1303 Tobola Street

Cambridge Village Entrance
Ward Street @ Avenue N

ROAD CLOSURES

October 9-12
SH36 closed between
Avenues H & J

Lane closures on
Ave. D between
Carlisle & Willow Lane
for sanitary sewer
improvements.

ROCKET BLAST-OFF PARTY

Thursday,
October 29
6:30 - 8:00 PM

Sunset Park
2017 Mulcahy

Don't miss this
once-in-a-lifetime
event!



INFORMATION
832-595-3960



RECYCLING IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO!

If you throw away aluminum cans or take them to the City's recycling center or to Fort Bend County's recycling facilities, please consider donating those cans to the Rosenberg Fire Department's Cans4Cancer project. You can make a difference in cancer and to our environment.

Rosenberg Recycling Center - 3720 Airport Ave.
Open 24/7
Information - 832-595-3960

IMPORTANT REMINDER

State law bans the use of cell phones in school zones unless the vehicle is stopped or a hands-free device is used. Be smart. Obey the law.

It's a fact.

Safety belts save lives and everyone in a vehicle must now buckle up or face a fine.

Click It or Ticket Everyone!

Prevent the flu!

**Stay home.
Cover your mouth.
Wash your hands.**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Governor Rick Perry, the Department of State Health Services, the Fort Bend County Health & Human Services, and your City leaders are asking everyone to be vigilant in reducing the spread of the Novel H1N1 virus – commonly referred to as the Swine Flu.

So how do we do that? Take standard precautions to reduce the spread of this virus and any other respiratory illness: avoid spreading the illness -- stay home from work, school, and errands when you are sick; cough or sneeze into the crook of your elbow or a tissue and then properly dispose of used tissues; wash your hands frequently and thoroughly with soap and warm water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer; avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth; and practice good health habits: get plenty of sleep, be physically active, eat nutritious foods, and drink plenty of fluids.

Learn more. Visit www.ci.rosenberg.tx.us, www.co.fort-bend.tx.us, www.dshs.state.tx.us, or www.cdc.gov.

What is the longest running public health and safety observance on record?

Fire Prevention Week -- established to remember the Great Chicago Fire which occurred in 1871 and killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2,000 acres. Because the fire did most of its damage on October 9th, **Fire Prevention Week** always occurs in the week of October 9th, but the month of October is now considered **National Fire Prevention Month** – a time when public service departments across American join forces to spread the word about fire safety. To observe the month, Fire Marshal Wade Goates wants everyone in Rosenberg to stay vigilant when it comes to fire prevention:

Call the fire department if you need a smoke alarm. "The only thing a resident has to do to get a smoke alarm installed in their home is to call the Fire Department. It's that simple," said Goates.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, fire can spread rapidly through a home, leaving as little as 2 minutes to escape safely once the alarm sounds. Have a fire escape plan in the event a smoke alarm sounds and make sure every member in the household is familiar with the plan. If there are older adults or people with disabilities in the household, increase their chances of surviving a fire by practicing fire safety precautions and teaching them the escape plan. Once outside the home, stay out and never re-enter the home to save property. Make sure the fire escape plan includes a pre-arranged meeting place and designate a family member to go to a neighbor's home to call 911.

Install quick release devices on window and door security bars to allow them to be quickly opened in an emergency. Every family member should understand and practice how to properly operate and open locked or barred doors and windows.

If living in a manufactured home constructed before 1976, practice good fire safety including installing at least one smoke alarm, limiting the use of extension cords, and making a habit of monitoring the use of heating and cooking equipment. Manufactured homes constructed after 1976 complies with federal government regulations regarding construction of the housing and should bear a label certifying compliance with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development manufactured housing construction and safety standards.

Response time is critical and it is often difficult for emergency personnel – fire department, police, and ambulances – to find residences whose address numbers are not properly displayed and easily readable from the street. **CLEARLY POST YOUR HOUSE NUMBERS SO YOUR HOME CAN BE EASILY FOUND IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY.**

Make every month Fire Prevention Month in your home. Learn more about fire safety by calling the Rosenberg Fire Department at 832-595-3600.



Firefighter Daryl Ustynik and George Velasquez, Jr. install a smoke detector in the home of Hortencia Rangel. The device is provided at no charge as part of RFD's Baby Safe program.

Meeting & Activities Calendar

View posted agendas at www.ci.rosenberg.tx.us. Questions? Call 832-595-3301

Monday, October 5	Special Rosenberg Development Corporation, Civic Center, 11 AM Parks & Recreation Funding Task Force, Civic Center, 6 PM
Tuesday, October 6	City Council Meeting, 2110 4th Street, 6 PM City-Wide National Night Out Events
Thursday, October 8	Rosenberg Development Corporation, Civic Center, 3825 SH36 South, 11:30 AM
Saturday, October 10	Rosenberg Railroad Museum Fun-cr-Roo Family Day, 11 AM - 4 PM
Monday, October 19	Image Committee, Civic Center, 3825 SH36 South, 12 Noon
Wednesday, October 21	Parks & Recreation Board, Civic Center, 3825 SH36 South, 5:30 PM
Tuesday, October 27	City Council Meeting (moved from October 20), 2110 4th Street, 7 PM
Wednesday, October 28	Planning Commission, 2110 4th Street, 6 PM
Thursday, October 29 RFD	Fire Department Fundraiser, Texas Roadhouse @ Brazos Town Center, 11 AM - 2 PM Rocket Blast Off Party, Sunset Park, 2017 Mulcahy, 6:30-8 PM

Get Involved - Promote Cancer Awareness

Rosenberg Firefighter Clint Leopold had a great idea: Collect aluminum cans to fight cancer and then donate all of the collection proceeds to various local projects. When Firefighter Leopold's idea was enthusiastically applauded by Fire Chief Kathy Hutchens, he was off and running to get the Cans4Cancer program in place. With that, the City adopted the program and Cans4Cancer receptacles are located at the various city buildings. Rosenberg's Fort Bend Recyclers and Julius Metals in Stafford have both agreed to be collection points for this program. In addition, they will add an additional percentage to the funds collected. It is hoped that businesses, organizations, and the residents of our area will join in this effort. Letter Design & Sign Display generously donated the design and production of Cans4Cancer stickers. These stickers can be placed on recycling receptacles and are available from the Fire Department to anyone who wishes to participate in the program. A 501(c) 3 non-profit corporation was formed so that donations to the cause will be tax deductible. Serving as officers for this board are Firefighter Leopold and Lt. Bill Adams as well as Retired Firefighter Allen Scopel. Anyone wishing to make a tax-deductible donation to Cans4Cancer or anyone wishing to participate in the program may get more information at www.Cans4Cancer.com.



ROSENBERG DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Building Our Future

Over the last 14 years, the Rosenberg Development Corporation (RDC) has invested over \$11,000,000 in projects to benefit Rosenberg's future. Founded in 1995 to promote economic development through a portion of the sales tax collected by the City, the RDC has invested in projects to promote businesses, create primary jobs, and enhance our quality-of-life.

The expanded *Rosenberg INSIDER* newsletter provides a unique opportunity to report on RDC initiatives to re-invest sales tax revenues back into the community - so from this point forward, information on current and upcoming RDC projects will be reported in this publication on a monthly basis. As we begin the start of the 2010 fiscal year, it is a good time to look back at the past year and the impact of how RDC programming has had on this community as well as to what the future holds.

The FY2009 year has been a busy one for RDC. The contribution of \$450,000 toward the recently completed reconstruction of Reese Road assisted in relocating National Oilwell Varco's Downhole Tools, L.P. (NOV) service center from the ETJ to within the City limits. NOV is nearing completion of the construction of a 60,000 square foot facility where 50 positions will be retained and 25 new positions are planned to be created. In another infrastructure project, the RDC contributed \$700,000 for the widening of Bamore Road between US-59 and Klauke Road impacting the commercial development on the west side of Bamore Road.

The RDC will soon be participating in the drainage improvement project slated for Spacek Road. These improvements will alleviate the drainage issues that have hindered the expansion of Biotics Research. The expansion of the research facility in 2010 will retain 111 jobs and create another 25 new positions.

Other projects the RDC has committed to participate in this coming year include quality of life projects. The RDC is funding \$100,000 in neighborhood park improvements focused on fencing, the removal of non-functional buildings and fresh paint for existing buildings, replacing water fountains, and providing eight seating areas for the enjoyment of park visitors.

The RDC has also dedicated \$250,000 for the lighting needed at the little league fields in the new Seabourne Creek Park Sports Complex. The park, scheduled to open in Spring 2010, will begin hosting little league tournaments bringing many visitors to Rosenberg. These tourism dollars contribute to the local economy, assist in keeping our taxes low, and help support projects such as these which enrich our quality of life.

The sales tax that is generated throughout the City helps to fund infrastructure improvements, enhance the quality of life for our residents, and improves the surroundings in which our businesses prosper. These improvements also make our City more attractive to businesses looking to relocate to the region or expand their current facilities.

The RDC Board meets monthly and the public is encouraged to attend the open meetings. For more information, visit the Economic Development website or contact the Economic Development Department.

The “jewels” in Rosenberg are shining brighter.

Over the past two years, much focus has been placed on Rosenberg’s parks and recreational activities throughout our community. The focus on City parks, our “jewels,” began in 2006, when voters approved an \$11.5 million Bond Referendum which included \$2.5 million for a variety of parks projects that included new restrooms at four parks, partially funding a regional sports complex at Seabourne Creek Park, and playground equipment throughout the parks. Many of the initiatives have been completed and by year end, residents will soon enjoy new playground equipment at five parks – Macario Garcia, Community, Brazos, Travis, and Sunset. Of course, an element of the park playground improvements included replacing the popular “Rocket” at Sunset Park and much fanfare was given the “blast-off” to the Seabourne Creek Sports Complex on October 29th.

But Parks and Recreation Director Darren McCarthy didn’t stop with the opportunities provided by the Bond Referendum. With the assistance of the Greater Fort Bend Economic Development Council, the City got on board with a tree planting program through the Apache Tree Planting Program to provide 413 trees for City parks. The trees were provided at no charge and planted by City staff and volunteers. Other park developments included the construction of a soccer field at Macario Garcia Park, a recreational amenity requested by many City park users.



The Rosenberg Development Corporation (RDC) has clearly shown support of the City parks by dedicating funding for important quality-of-life park projects: \$100,000 for projects which include replacing fencing throughout the neighborhood parks, removing non-functioning buildings and giving a fresh coat of paint to existing buildings, replacing and adding water fountains, and adding seating areas at key locations throughout the parks; and \$250,000 to fund lighting at the little league fields in the new Seabourne Creek Sports Complex. Scheduled to open next Spring, the sports complex will host tournaments bringing countless visitors to the City and contributing valuable tourism dollars to the local economy.

The Parks and Recreation Department is also working to offer a wide variety of recreational programming throughout City parks and at the Rosenberg Civic Center on US36 South. Men’s softball is being held at Travis Park through December 10, the Christmas holidays will kick off on December 2 at the annual Gazebo Lighting Ceremony at City Hall, and on February 6, 2010, the trout fishing tournament, Fishtastic, will be held at Seabourne Creek Park. Recently announced programming for 2010 at the Civic Center includes line-dancing and clogging classes.

A new addition to the recreational “menu” includes a canoe and kayak event sponsored by the Richmond Knights of Columbus – “Race on the Brazos” – scheduled for April 2010. Participants will launch into the Brazos River at a new canoe and kayak launch site at Community Park -- one of 16 launch sites along the Brazos River Paddling Trail connecting communities all the way to the Gulf of Mexico.

In other news, a Parks and Recreation Foundation is being established as a nonprofit foundation to serve as a tax exempt entity for donations to promote and support the City’s public parks and recreation programs. Watch for more information on this important development.

The Parks and Recreation Department is also forming partnerships with local organizations. One organization, the Texas Master Naturalist Coastal Prairie Chapter, is involved with a 20-acre prairie restoration program along the nature trails at Seabourne Creek Park. In addition to offering outdoor educational classes at the Civic Center, the Texas Master Naturalists will be assisting the City with adding interpretive signage at the prairie restoration area and along the nature trails within Seabourne Creek Park. Also, local Eagle Scouts have built a wildlife observation deck near the lake at Seabourne Creek Park and are planning on building additional picnic shelters along the nature trails.

To learn more about recreational programming and civic classes, call “Parks” at 832-595-3960.

New water meters will ultimately save energy.

Come early November the City will begin replacing commercial and residential water meters throughout the City – many of which have been in the ground for over 20 years. The crews will have a gray company shirt with “U.S. Bronco Meter Crew” on the back. Their vehicles will have signs that say City of Rosenberg contractor with the city logo on them. The meter replacement program is part of the City’s plan to not only replace meters which no longer measure water usage accurately, but to ultimately save energy, fuel, and staff time. The new meters will be read by a fixed base AMR system that will allow the City to provide more detailed information to assist customers with issues such as leaks. Meters will be replaced from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The new meters are the end result of a lengthy process by the City to perform a Detailed Energy, Water and Water Use Conservation Study. The City has worked with Siemens Building Technologies to put together a project totaling \$6.6 million that will be funded through a \$5 million State Energy Conservation Office Loan at 3% and Lease/Purchase Financing through Bank of America for the balance. The savings and additional revenue generated from the project will fund the improvements without any additional debt burden to the customers or taxpayers.

City facilities will close to observe the Thanksgiving holiday.

Rosenberg offices will close Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27 for the Thanksgiving holidays; and resume normal hours of operation on Monday, November 30. Emergency inquiries should be directed to 832-595-3700. For a complete listing of holiday closures, go to www.ci.rosenberg.tx.us.

Trash collections scheduled for Thursday, November 26 will be collected Monday, November 30.
Trash collections scheduled for Friday, November 27 will be collected Tuesday, December 1.

Questions? Call the Citizen Relations Coordinator at 832-595-3301 or Allied Waste at 713-937-9955.

Planning to add on to your home?

Are you running out of space in your garage? Do you have more cars at your house than covered parking areas? Do you want to add a carport to your property to park vehicles under? If the answer to any of these questions is yes, then check with the City’s Planning Department to make sure that any plans you have for additions to your house meet the setbacks defined in the Code of Ordinances.

All lots within the City that are used for residential purposes have to adhere to certain setbacks from your property lines. The front yard setback for all residential lots is 25 feet. That 25 feet has to be adhered to for any additions to the front of the house, such as carports and porches. Many lots appear to have adequate space to build, but all that space in the front may not be available for building. An important thing to remember is that your property line does not begin where the street pavement ends. If there is a ditch or a sidewalk along your street, those ditches and sidewalks are typically in the right-of-way of the street and cannot be counted towards the 25 feet. The amount of right-of-way in the front of your house varies from location to location. If you are unsure of where to begin the measurement, try to find a copy of the survey that you should have received when you purchased the house. Then you should call the Planning Department to learn more about the setbacks. In many locations in the City, there is not adequate room in the front to allow for the space for the length of a carport. If you do not have room for a carport in the front yard of your house, you might take a look at the side. If you have a large side yard, this might be an option. However, there is also a side yard setback requirement of 5 feet from the property line. Also, if your property is a corner lot, then the setback on that side is greater than 5 feet. Again, before you begin any planning for additions to your house, check with the Planning Department to see what you can build and if you have the space to build.

The construction of a carport or any other structural addition to your home will require a permit. To begin the process, bring your plans to the Permits Department and complete a building application. If you have any questions about setbacks, contact the Planning Department at 832-595-3500. Or if your questions are more about building codes, engineering requirements, or the permitting procedure, contact the Permits Department at 832-595-3547. Staff in the

Meeting & Activities Calendar

View posted agendas at www.ci.rosenberg.tx.us. Questions? Call 832-595-3301

Monday, November 2	Parks Funding Task Force, Civic Center, 6 PM
Tuesday, November 3	City Council Meeting, 2110 4th Street, 7 PM
Wednesday, November 11	Downtown Task Force, Police Dept. Community Room, 2120 4th Street, 6 PM
Thursday, November 12	Rosenberg Development Corporation, Civic Center, 11:30 AM
Monday, November 16	Image Committee, Civic Center, 12 Noon
Tuesday, November 17	City Council Meeting, 2110 4th Street, 7 PM
Wednesday, November 18	Parks & Recreation Board, Civic Center, 5:30 PM
Tuesday, November 24	Special City Council Meeting, 2110 4th Street, 6 PM
Thursday, November 26	Thanksgiving Holiday - CITY FACILITIES CLOSED
Friday, November 27	Thanksgiving Holiday - CITY FACILITIES CLOSED

SAVE THESE DATES!

Wednesday, December 2	Christmas Gazebo Lighting @ City Hall, 2110 4th Street, 6:30 PM
Saturday, December 5	Christmas in Rosenberg Festival, Historic Downtown District, 3-9 PM
Friday, December 25	Christmas Holiday - CITY FACILITIES CLOSED. Watch for trash collection reminder.
Friday, January 1, 2010	New Years Holiday - CITY FACILITIES CLOSED. Watch for trash collection reminder.
Saturday, February 6, 2010	Fishtastic Trout Fishing Tournament, Seabourne Creek Park, 8-11 AM
April 2010	Race on the Brazos - Canoe & Kayak Race, Community Park - Watch for details!

November Beautification Awards

Lupe & Patsy Saenz
2617 Avenue G

Adelia Tucker
415 5th Street

Rudy & Lucille Antrich
2720 Chupik

Rosie Kimble
216 8th Street

Oralia Rosales
1303 5th Street

ROAD CLOSURES

Avenue D between Willow & Mulcahy for sanitary sewer line replacement.

RECYCLING IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO!

If you throw away aluminum cans or take them to the City's recycling center or to Fort Bend County's recycling facilities, please consider donating those cans to the Rosenberg Fire Department's Cans4Cancer project.

You can make a difference in cancer and to our environment.

Rosenberg Recycling Center

**3720 Airport Ave.
Open 24/7**

**Information
832-595-3960**



*Christmas in Rosenberg - December 5 - 3 to 9 PM
in the Historic Downtown District*

Learn more! www.RosenbergEvents.com



Make 2010 Count, Rosenberg. The future is in your hands.

How many people are living in your home? That is a question that the United States Census Bureau wants you to answer next year when the Census 2010 questionnaires are mailed out. The Census is a count of everyone residing in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Island Territories. All households in these areas will receive a questionnaire in 2010. All residents must be counted in this census, which will include people of all ages, races, ethnic groups, citizens, and non citizens. The first Census was conducted in 1790 and has been carried out every 10 years since then.

For the 2010 Census, the Census Bureau has changed its procedure since the last census was taken. The 2010 Census will consist of a short-form only, which will ask for the number of persons living in your house, as well as names, sex, age, dates of birth, race, ethnicity, relationship and housing tenure. It will take less than 10 minutes for you to complete this important questionnaire.

The Census is important for several reasons. First, census data affects funding in our community, and determines how more than \$400 billion per year in federal and state funding is allocated to communities for neighborhood improvements, public health, education, transportation and much more. That's more than \$4 trillion over a 10-year period. Second, the Census affects our voice in Congress, and census data is used to apportion seats in the U.S. House of Representatives and to redistrict state legislatures. Third, the Census affects our representation in state and local government, by using data to define legislature districts, school district assignment areas and other important functional areas of government. Fourth, the Census provides information that affects decisions made about our community.

The census is like a snapshot that helps define who we are as a nation. Data about changes in our community are crucial to many planning decisions, such as where to provide services for the elderly, where to build new roads and schools, or where to locate job training centers.

Are you worried about the data you provide on the census form?

Don't be. Your responses on the questionnaire are confidential and protected by law. All Census Bureau employees have taken an oath to protect confidentiality and are subject to a jail term, a fine – or both – for disclosing any information that could identify a respondent or household.

When will the Census take

place? Census questionnaires will be mailed or delivered to every household in March 2010. The questions ask you to provide information that is accurate for your household as of April 1, 2010. If you do not respond to the initial questionnaire, a second form will be mailed to households. If you still do not respond to the second form, you will be called or visited by a Census worker. Census workers can be identified by a census badge.

We hope you don't have to be visited by a census worker. A response to the initial form will ensure that you will not receive a second form and you will not be personally called or visited. The City of Rosenberg had a response rate of 60% in Census 2000. In order to ensure that the City is allocated its fair share of governmental funding, please participate in the census and complete the initial short form. It will take only a few minutes of your time. Your participation in the Census is mandated by the Constitution, so it is important for you to participate.

The Census Bureau must count everyone and submit state population totals to the U.S. President by December 31, 2010. The final product will be a summary of statistical data and none of your personal information will be part of the final report. If you have any questions about the upcoming Census, please call the Planning Department at 832-595-3500, or visit the Census Bureau website at www.census.gov. "It's in our hands."

[Source: www.census.gov]



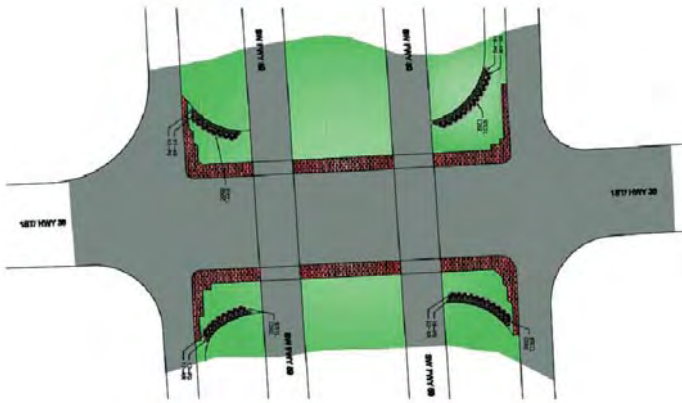
IT'S IN OUR HANDS

It is important for every Rosenberg resident to participate in the 2010 Census to ensure your City is allocated its fair share of governmental funding. Take 10 minutes to answer 10 questions. You can make a difference in your future... and Rosenberg's!

ROSENBERG DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Building Our Future

A specific area of focus for the Rosenberg Development Corporation (RDC) has been, and continues to be, the “Gateways” to our community. These are the high-traffic areas in which visitors enter or leave our city. Our intent is to promote the City as a place to do business by making it more visually appealing to potential customers. This encourages out-of-towners to shop in our stores, eat at our restaurants, and to do business with Rosenberg companies. In turn, this will create jobs and commercial opportunities for our residents and business community.



One of the programs we have undertaken is the maintenance of the highway right-of-way along U.S. Highway 59 and along State Highway 36. This consists of removing litter and keeping the grass along the roadway mowed. This occurs monthly, with more frequency in high-visibility areas, such as the intersections. This program has been underway since 2007, and has been well-received by businesses in those areas.

A new project being undertaken by the RDC is the installation of landscaping along U.S. Highway 59. The areas chosen for this are the intersections with F.M. 2218 and State Highway 36, as this is the most visible area due to the amount of traffic stopping at the traffic signals. The landscaping, scheduled to be completed in October, will include rows of oleanders and roses installed at all four corners of each intersection. These plants were chosen for the colors and hardiness, and irrigation systems are also being installed in order to ensure the long-term viability of the plantings.

The Rosenberg Development Corporation plans to examine a number of options to improve the appearance of our gateways in the upcoming budget year. These include the painting of highway bridges, additional landscaping, and re-landscaping entryway signage.

The RDC Board meets monthly and the public is encouraged to attend the meetings. For more information, visit the Economic Development website or contact the Economic Development Department.

Police Explorers Excel in San Antonio Competition

Rosenberg Explorer Post #2120, formed in April 2008, was one of 30 teams that participated in the October 2009 Alamo Area Law Enforcement Competition held at the St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church in San Antonio. Under the supervision of Lieutenant Aaron Slater and Detectives Kayla Dowdy and Randy Weishiemer, the Explorers were able to successfully complete all tasks required of them and proved their commitment to the competition by placing in every area in which they competed.



The Law Enforcement Competition tested Explorer knowledge and skills in different police crime scene scenarios involving physical agility, crisis intervention, and tactics of working a felony traffic stop. Post #2120 took home a first place trophy in Physical Agility, and third place trophies for the Crisis Intervention, Felony Traffic Stop, and Academic Exercises. As a team, Explorer Post #2120 ranked third out of the 30 teams present.

"I am glad to be able to work with this group of young people. We have a group comprised of kids fairly new to us and they were able to get on board and quickly learn the material. Their success is a testament to hard work. These young people show up and work hard every time, and now they have several trophies as proof of their hard work," stated advisor Detective Randy Weishiemer.

The Explorers continue to impress their advisors and competitors by excelling in every area of competition. Over the past year, Post 2120 has competed in many competitions and has also hosted a competition here in Rosenberg.

The Law Enforcement Explorers program was created by Boy Scouts of America more than 50 years ago. The program is designed to expose young men and young women to the multitude of career opportunities available in law enforcement and is designed to allow young people to experience the varied aspects of police work. This exposure allows them to develop leadership skills and helps them become mature, responsible adults, with the hope that these same young people might later become professional law enforcement agents.

For information on Rosenberg's Explorer program, contact Detective Weishiemer at 832-595-3700.

Pictured Above (L-R): Chris Montoya, AJ Lopez, Alex Medina, Jimmy Lewis, Laura Palacios, Elizabeth Ocampo, Christina Barr, Courtney Lopez and Detective Randy Weishiemer, advisor.

City facilities will close to observe Christmas and New Year's Holidays.

Rosenberg municipal facilities will close Friday, December 25, 2009, for Christmas and Friday, January 1, 2010 for New Year's Day. Emergencies should be directed to 832-595-3700.

Trash collection scheduled for Friday, December 25, 2009, will be collected Tuesday, December 29. Trash collection scheduled for Friday, January 1, 2010, will be collected Tuesday, January 5.

Please contact the Citizen Relations Coordinator at 832-595-3301 with any questions.

Sunset Park Rocket "Blasts Off" to Seabourne Creek Park

City crews recently gave a cherished Rosenberg landmark a little tender-loving-care as they prepared to move the Sunset Park Rocket to its new home in Seabourne Creek Park. The Parks Department hosted a "blast off" party on October 29 and encouraged the community to take the opportunity to reminisce with friends and family about good times spent in Sunset Park. The rocket's new home will be Seabourne Creek Park, where it will serve as a museum-type piece and memorial to days-gone-by.

The rocket's removal will make way for park improvements including a new rocket and playground equipment. The new rocket is currently being constructed, and the City plans to have the equipment installed by the end of 2009, weather permitting.



Pictured Above (L-R): City Employees Paul Mendoza and Paul Rodgers.

Fire Department Fundraiser a Success



The day may have been dreary, but the community didn't let that dampen its support of the Rosenberg Fire Department. Through the generosity of Texas Roadhouse and all lunch guests, the Rosenberg Fire Department was able to raise over \$3800 at their October 29th luncheon fundraiser. The funds will be used to purchase equipment.

Rosenberg Fire Chief Kathleen Hutchens stated, "We know that the weather was bad and you [lunch guests] had to make a special effort to come to lunch. I am thrilled to say that we were able to raise \$3817 through the generous donations of all of our guests. The Roadhouse donated all of the food and beverages and we are tremendously appreciative of their kindness."

Thank you to Texas Roadhouse and all of the guests who attended for your continued support of the Rosenberg Fire Department.

Pictured Above (L-R): City Councilor Tom Suter visits with Rosenberg Fire Chief Kathleen Hutchens in her pink bunker gear.

Meeting & Activities Calendar

View posted agendas at www.ci.rosenberg.tx.us
Questions? Please call 832-595-3301

Tuesday, December 1
Wednesday, December 2

Saturday, December 5
Monday, December 7
Thursday, December 10

Tuesday, December 15
Monday, December 21
Friday, December 25
Friday, January 1, 2010

City Council Meeting, 2110 4th Street, 7 PM
Special Rosenberg Development Corporation Meeting, Civic Center, 12:00 PM
Christmas Gazebo Lighting at City Hall, 2110 4th Street, 6:30 PM
Christmas in Rosenberg Festival, Historic Downtown District, 3:00 to 9:00 PM
Parks and Recreation Board Meeting, Civic Center, 5:30 PM
Rosenberg Development Corporation Meeting, Civic Center, 11:30 AM
Complete Count Census Committee Meeting, Civic Center, 11:30 AM
City Council Meeting, 2110 4th Street, 7 PM
Planning Commission Meeting, 2110 4th Street, 6:00 PM
Christmas Holiday - CITY FACILITIES CLOSED
New Year's Day Holiday - CITY FACILITIES CLOSED

SAVE THESE DATES!
Saturday, February 6, 2010
April 2010

Fishtastic Trout Fishing Tournament, Seabourne Creek Park, 8-11 AM
Race on the Brazos, Canoe & Kayak Race, Community Park - Watch for details!

December Beautification Awards

Mr. & Mrs. Daniel McLaughlin
7703 Summer Shore Drive

Ms. Theresa Mielsch
1204 Houston Street

Mr. & Mrs. Ricky Scott
914 Klare Avenue

Mr. & Mrs. Harris Watson
2915 Talasek Street

First United Methodist Church
1106 4th Street

Mr. & Mrs. Rodney Hardegree
1225 Damon Street

Ms. Amanda Garza
1211 7th Street

ROAD CLOSURES

**Avenue D will remain
closed between
Willow & Mulcahy
for sanitary sewer
line replacement.**

The Rosenberg Police Department is preparing for the holiday season by increasing their presence in targeted areas of our community to deter criminals enticed by increased numbers of shoppers and visitors.

Through partnerships with community members, businesses and organizations, and detailed crime-analysis, the RPD strives diligently to lower crime and increase public safety every day of the year.

HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS *Don't be a Victim!*

- Always be aware of your surroundings
 - Keep cash to a minimum – use credit cards
- Keep records of credit card numbers and report theft or compromise immediately
- Don't wear expensive jewelry shopping
 - Don't be distracted by talking on a phone or listening to headphones
- Have vehicle keys in hand and alarm button ready BEFORE you leave the store
 - Continuously scan area while loading children & packages
 - Look for & report suspicious people or vehicles
 - ALWAYS lock your vehicle
 - Don't leave valuables in sight
- If approached by a subject with a weapon – don't argue or resist; your life is worth more than anything... However, if you are being forced into a vehicle with the suspect, FIGHT BACK!



Employees of the Month



Rosenberg Police Department Detectives Kevin Raines and Jacky Bumpers were named Employees of the Month for November. The award was bestowed upon the pair for their work to arrest the key suspect in the July 25 burglary of the Rosenberg JC Penney store. The detectives' investigation led to the recovery of over \$1 million in stolen jewelry from JC Penney stores across the country.

Rosenberg Police Chief Robert Gracia, Sergeant Bryan Leach, Detectives Bumpers and Raines and City Manager Jack Hamlett are pictured above.

Rosenberg Cares



Rosenberg employee, Michael Gonzales, loads military care packages prepared by City employees for delivery to the Post Office. City staff assembled approximately 100 packages to send to our military service members abroad.

This holiday season, send something to remind those serving our country abroad that they are thought about and cared for. You don't have to know someone specifically to make an impact - there are many charities whose purpose is to provide information about and facilitate mailings to our military personnel.

Get involved - let our soldiers know they are cared for back home!

For more information, please visit:
www.anysoldier.com

The City of Rosenberg is here to Serve You!

Responding to our citizens is a vital part of our everyday activities at the City of Rosenberg. To help better accomplish this goal, the City created a mechanism to manage requests and concerns brought to us - Citizen Relations. The Citizen Relations Coordinator, Barbara Vick, is charged with the responsibility of being an advocate and voice for citizens. Ms. Vick offers our citizens the opportunity to express their concerns with assurance that they will be responded to and handled in a timely, appropriate manner.



Ms. Vick began working for the City in February 2007, and as a result of her passion for helping others and efforts to simplify and streamline the citizen concern-reporting process, has truly made the Citizen Relations program her own. Barbara has developed a comprehensive, "one-stop" system to address concerns and questions raised by community members and calls to Citizen Relations are ever-increasing, speaking to Ms. Vick's efficiency and tact in handling concerns.

If you have an issue, concern, or question about City services, we encourage you to contact the Citizen Relations desk at 832-595-3301 or stop by City Hall during regular business hours. For after-hour non-emergencies, you may leave a voice mail at the above number.

Hearing from our citizens makes us aware of issues that might otherwise be overlooked. Working together, citizens and staff can continue to improve our City. Let us hear from you!

Waste-Removal Guidelines

The holidays are here! The weather is changing and we find ourselves with lots of "extras" each week as we place our garbage out for pick-up. The following guidelines are provided as a reminder about the regulations governing waste collection in the City of Rosenberg. Please contact the Citizen Relations Coordinator at 832-595-3301 with further questions.

General Information

- Have trash out for collection NO LATER THAN 7:00 A.M.
- Place trash in containers designed for residential garbage, including trash cans with handles and/or bags.
- Containers should be strong enough to not break when full and lifted by handles or the bag top.
- Garbage cans should not exceed 35-gallon capacity or 50 lbs. when full. (No 55-gallon drums.)
- Citizens are encouraged to use local school bins for cardboard, newspapers, magazines, and catalog recycling, and/or the Fort Bend Recycling Center, 1200 Blume Road, phone: 281-633-7571 as recycling is not provided with regular waste collection.
- If a holiday falls on your regularly-scheduled garbage collection day, your garbage will be collected on your next regularly-scheduled day. Holiday collection schedules are published in the Fort Bend Herald immediately preceding each holiday.

Yard Waste Collection

- Yard waste, including tree trimmings, leaves and other items will be collected with the regular garbage pick-up
- Tree cuttings should be cut into 4-foot lengths, no larger than 3 inches in diameter, and stacked.
- Logs should be cut to firewood size.

Heavy Trash Pick-Up

- Residential bulky waste will be collected once-weekly on the second regularly-scheduled pick-up day (Thursday or Friday) and are limited to one bulky item per pick up.
- The City's garbage contractor cannot accept: items containing refrigerant (CFCs), televisions, car parts, tires, hazardous materials, construction debris, wet paint, motor oil, gas tanks or any other item which may become flammable when mixed with other garbage.
- Examples of acceptable bulky items include: stoves, refrigerators (with Freon removed and properly tagged by an authorized technician), water heaters, washing machines, and furniture. Carpeting can be picked up if it is cut to 4-foot width.



ROSENBERG DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Building Our Future

This is the second in a series of articles about the Rosenberg Development Corporation (RDC), the first issued in July 2009.

Over the past fourteen years, the RDC has re-invested sales tax revenue back into the City, contributing \$11,000,000 toward projects that benefit the residents and businesses of Rosenberg and improve quality of life.

2009 has been a busy year for the RDC. Several infrastructure projects were completed impacting the city including:

- An RDC contribution of \$450,000 toward the recently-completed reconstruction of Reese Road. This assisted the relocation of National Oilwell Varco's Downhole Tools, L.P. (NOV) service center from the extra-territorial jurisdiction to within the City limits. NOV has nearly completed the construction of a 60,000 square-foot facility. This project has resulted in the retention of 50 positions and the addition of 25 new positions in the near future.
- An RDC contribution of \$700,000 for the widening of Bamore Road between US-59 and Klauke Road. This impacted the commercial development on the west side of Bamore Road, allowing for better traffic flow from US-59 to US-90.
- Upcoming RDC participation in a drainage improvement project for Spacek Road. These improvements will alleviate drainage problems that have hindered the expansion of Biotics Research. The 2010 expansion of the Biotics Research facility will retain 111 jobs and create 25 new ones.

Additional commitments the RDC has agreed to participate in this coming year include several quality-of-life projects:

- \$100,000 contribution toward park improvements for neighborhood parks. These improvements will focus on removing and replacing dilapidated fencing, removal of non-functional buildings and fresh paint for the existing buildings, replacing water fountains, and providing eight gazebo-style seating areas for all ages to enjoy.
- \$250,000 dedicated to lighting needed at the little league fields in the new Seabourne Creek Park Sports Complex. The park, scheduled to open in spring 2010, will begin hosting little league tournaments that will bring many visitors to Rosenberg. Tourism contributes valuable dollars to the local economy and assists in keeping our taxes low.

The sales tax that is generated throughout the City helps fund these infrastructure improvements and enhances the quality of life for our residents. It improves the environment in which our businesses grow and prosper. These improvements make our City more attractive to businesses looking to relocate to the region or expand their current facilities.

The RDC Board meets the second Thursday of each month at the Civic Center. The public is encouraged to attend these open meetings.

Focus on... the Rosenberg Fire Department



As I approach completing my first year as fire chief in Rosenberg, I can reflect on the accomplishments, challenges, and opportunities for this city and this department. I have found that the city is very fortunate to have the dedicated and talented employees that work in this department. They look for ways to provide excellent service to the citizens and do not retreat from challenges.

A large percentage of our emergency responses are for medical calls. Consistently more than 60% of our call volume is EMS related. This call volume presents both a challenge and opportunities: we are constantly challenged to provide better service, and we have the opportunity to make a difference. In EMS situations, we truly have the chance to touch lives and show that we, as an individual; we, as a department; and of course, we, as a city care. We also have the challenge and opportunity to increase the level of service we provide by providing additional training and certifications for our firefighters. Now, allow me to share some of what the Department has accomplished in 2007.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS The Department offers two smoke detector programs: the Baby-Safe Program, in conjunction with Oak Bend Hospital, provides smoke detectors and installation to homes with new babies; and our Smoke Detector Program, which provides smoke detectors to anyone wishing to have one. Our Fire Safety Education Program is available to any organization requesting a class. These programs are available by simply calling the fire department at 832-595-3600 and requesting an appointment.

NEW PROGRAMS This year the city has provided funding for two inspector/firefighter positions who will complete fire inspections of all public buildings including multi-family dwellings within the city. Additionally, we took delivery of a grant-funded Hazardous Materials trailer, which will be used as part of the Fort Bend Regional Hazardous Materials Response team comprised of Rosenberg and five area departments. Within the next month, we will receive another grant-funded trailer for Heavy Rescue/Structural Collapse. This also is part of the regional concept and will include participation from Richmond, Stafford, and Sugar Land.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS Two members of our staff attended the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland during 2007. The first to attend was **BARBARA SMOLIK** who attended the "Public Information Officer" course to benefit her activities as spokesperson for the department during significant events. **LT. JEFF SCHUMANN** attended the "Command and Control of Fire Department Operations at Target Hazards" course designed to prepare personnel to effectively manage emergencies faced by our personnel. Firefighter **MATT HUNTER** attended a week of training in Anniston, Alabama on Hazardous Materials Operations; and firefighters **BOBBY TEICHMAN**, **FORD STEIN**, and **CLINT LEOPOLD** attended Emergency Medical Technician - Intermediate Training and subsequently passed the National Registry testing. All training attended by fire department personnel adds to the ability of our personnel to provide life saving treatment for our medical patients.



Pictured (L-R): Matt Hunter, Ford Stein, Jeff Schumann, Clint Leopold, Barbara Smolik, and Bobby Teichman.

In closing, let me say that Rosenberg Fire Department is a picture of the community. It is men and women of all creeds and colors, both paid and volunteer, who give of themselves to provide a service for others. On behalf of the department, I want to thank you for giving us that opportunity.

Kathleen Hutchens, Fire Chief



Employees of the Year Announced



Pictured L-R:
City Manager, Jack Hamlett; KARL ZWAHR, MICH KOBYLARZ, PAT PARMA, ROBERT WADE, Charlexis (Mrs. Willie) McQueen and daughter, Alexandria McQueen (age 2), MARITZA SALAZAR, KENNY SEYMOUR, Police Chief Robert Gracia, and Mayor Joe M. Gurecky.

Not pictured:
DWAIN USTYNIK and ANTHONY SALINAS.

City Manager Jack Hamlett announced the City employees receiving the coveted 2007 Willie D. McQueen Employee of the Year Award at the City's annual Christmas Luncheon on December 7, 2007. The annual award is named in honor of Police Sergeant Willie McQueen, a police veteran who passed away in 2005. The 2007 Employees of the year were selected from individuals nominated by their peers. Only full-time employees were eligible for the prestigious recognition. The eight 2007 award recipients and their accomplishments included: **KENNY SEYMOUR**, a Rosenberg Police Department Supervisor, for his involvement in the successful conclusion of a hostage situation and for his volunteer efforts with the City's adult softball program; Police Officer **ROBERT WADE**, for his participation in four key undercover investigations, all leading to the apprehension of suspects and subsequent arrests; Firefighter **DWAIN USTYNIK**, for sharing responsibility as the department's safety/training officer including monitoring training schedules and coordinating a county-wide volunteer firefighter program; **MARITZA SALAZAR**, Finance Department Accounting Clerk III, for providing individual training during key budget activities and at the end of the Finance Department's budget year while maintaining regular staff duties; Public Works Streets Supervisor, **PAT PARMA**, for his personal efforts to meet citizen requests and directly resolve their concerns; **KARL ZWAHR**, Utilities Department Supervisor, for taking a lead role in contract management activities outside the scope of his regular responsibilities; **MICH KOBYLARZ**, Information Services Manager, who assumed the position with a short-staffed department and successfully kept services operational, and for developing a much-needed multi-year technology plan; and, Planning and Code Enforcement Officer **ANTHONY SALINAS** who has tirelessly worked to make his role a proactive one, implementing a weekly Code Enforcement report, and for working with the Police Department to successfully remove a building which served as a haven for drug users. **CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL 2007 EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR RECIPIENTS!**



Attention: Permit Required for Backflow Prevention Devices

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) requires the City to have a monitoring and enforcement program for backflow prevention on the City's public water system. For residential homeowners, lawn irrigation systems will be the most common item requiring a backflow prevention device. Backflow prevention devices such as removable piping sections, private water wells, and lawn sprinkler systems, must be tested by a certified tester after the installation of a device, following the repair or relocation of an assembly, and once per year thereafter. The City's Code Enforcement Department is responsible for advising residents and business owners by letter if a potential cross-connection has been identified at their property. If the City is aware a backflow prevention device has been installed, a reminder letter will be sent about the annual testing requirement. The owner is responsible for any costs associated with the installation, maintenance, and testing. A backflow prevention assembly test must be performed by a Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester (BPATOL) that is certified and licensed by the TCEQ. The certified tester must obtain a \$10.00 permit from the City before performing the test. The permit fee is in addition to any fees associated with the cost to perform the test. Upon completion of the test, the certified tester must submit an original copy of the test results to the City for its files in order to satisfy the TCEQ requirements. A list of certified testers licensed by the TCEQ is available by contacting the Building Inspection/Code Enforcement Department at (832) 595-3500, in person at 2220 Fourth Street, or from the TCEQ website at www.tceq.state.tx.us. The water service may be disconnected if a required backflow preventive assembly is not installed, tested and maintained. Any person who knowingly violates this ordinance may be cited by the City. For more information contact the Building Inspection/Code Enforcement Department at (832) 595-3500.



Beautification Awards

The City's Image Committee proudly recognizes the following residents for their excellence in beautifying their property and for their efforts at making their spot in the world more appealing.

DECEMBER 2007

Secundino & Connie Alameda
3919 Cypress Landing Ct.

Neil Brown, DDS
1110 Lawrence

Mr. & Mrs. Ben Perez
1118 Frost

Rogelio & Olivia Rodriguez*
3826 Avenue R

Ms. Maryann Sembera
2808 David

Walter & Ollie Whatley
1202 Frances

JANUARY 2008

Cynthia Bass
1207 MacArthur

Mary Fleming
1218 Carlisle

Raymond & Isabel Fonseca
3820 Avenue R

Kidzville Child Care*
5701 Avenue I/FM1640

Denver & Marie McFarland
3709 Avenue R

Bert & Lillian Olivari
1211 Lindsay

Dr. May Tape, DDS*
5501 Avenue I/FM1640

* **RENOVATION AWARD**

Focus on... the Rosenberg Parks & Recreation Department

In October 2007 I became the Parks and Recreation Director with the goal of upgrading all of the city's parks and programs while maintaining the established levels of quality service that the Parks Department provides. This is a vision shared by the citizens of Rosenberg, who in 2006 passed a 3.5 million dollar bond referendum to improve our Parks System.



PARK IMPROVEMENTS The 2006 bond provided funding to replace restroom facilities at Brazos, Sunset and Travis Parks and to build a new facility in Community Park. In November, a committee designed bid specifications for these facilities, and in February bid packets were distributed to potential bidders. Soon, the residents of Rosenberg will see this project completed with new facilities in these four parks. The Parks and Recreation Board is also concentrating on improvements to Macario Garcia Park including an enhanced walking path, lighting, and playground equipment. The Board will be using Parkland Dedication Funds to complete the improvements at Macario Garcia Park.

GREENING OUR PARKS With the assistance of Mayor Gurecky, the City applied for a Tree Grant with the Apache Corporation and the Greater Fort Bend Economic Development Council. If approved, the Apache Corporation will provide 413 trees to be planted in Rosenberg's parks. The trees, planted by parks staff and volunteers, will increase the clean air and provide shade and natural beauty throughout the City's park system.

PROGRAMS In February, Rosenberg teamed up with the Houston Rockets to bring the "Blacktop Battle" 3-on-3 basketball qualifier tournament to Community Park. As a result, four division winners received free entry to the March tournament held in Houston. The Parks Board is also considering partnership opportunities with the T.W. Davis YMCA to expand recreation programming to our residents. Additionally, our popular Adult Softball program is up and running again on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at Travis Park with Men's and Co-ed divisions. We are also looking into offering the Aquafina Pitch, Hit and Run tournament in conjunction with Rosenberg National Little League and the Punt, Pass and Kick competition with the Rosenberg Roughnecks. This summer, our summer recreation program will be offering golf instruction through the "Sticks for Kids" grant that Rosenberg received in January. This program will bring the game of golf to young residents who may never have had the opportunity to experience the popular sport.



Pictured (L-R): Front row: Paul Mendoza, Lance McClain, Deborah Almazan, Paul Rodgers, Darren McCarthy, James Taylor, Leonard Castillo, Jessica Luna, Jesus Vargus. Top row: Chris Vasquez, Mike Delgado, Charles Posey, Vincent Cisneros, Luis Bentancourt.

KUDOS TO STAFF *JESUS VARGUS, CHRIS VASQUEZ, BRANDON ROBESON, and PAUL RODGERS* have received their State Certification for Pesticide Applicator Licenses. By passing this difficult three part test, it will allow our staff to legally apply pesticides and herbicides that will improve the look of our parks and cityscapes.

In closing, we are excited and hard at work to provide you the best parks systems in the county. Thank you for giving us that opportunity. If you would like to be involved in the process, please contact us at 832-595-3960.

Darren R. McCarthy, CPRP, CPSI



Information Services Named Department of the Month



Pictured L-R:
Susan Rash, Assistant City Manager; KEITH LEACH, MICH KOBYLARZ, LARRY GOBAR, and Jack Hamlett, City Manager .

The Information Services Department was named Department of the Month for December 2007. The department, staffed by Manager *MICH KOBYLARZ*, *LARRY GOBAR*, and *KEITH LEACH*, was nominated based on their diligence and hard work to assure a temporary Police Department emergency communications center was set up during an installation of the

department's new communications center. Police personnel noted the department was instrumental in the success of the project, thanks to their skill and dedication to the labor intensive and difficult task of setting up the temporary communications center. The Police Department experienced no lost time or interruptions in communication services.

Rosenberg Celebrates One Hundred Twenty-Five Years!

On February 5, City Council recognized 2008 as the City's **Quasquicentennial Anniversary** by official proclamation, and unveiled plans for the **125th Anniversary** celebration. Following a 125th Anniversary kickoff reception, Mayor Joe M. Gurecky announced a slate of anniversary activities which included a soon-to-be-announced photo contest, the official celebration date of July 4, 2008, and a call to citizens, businesses, and local organizations to incorporate the 125th Anniversary into their existing activities throughout the year. Per Mayor Gurecky, "This milestone anniversary and activities celebrating 125 years will create a lasting legacy for upcoming generations by encouraging Rosenberg citizens to experience the multi-cultural tapestry of our community, to consider our rich history, and to look forward to our promising future." Watch for more news about 125th Anniversary activities!

Land Use Plan & Ordinance Public Hearings

The City of Rosenberg will hold two (2) public hearings for public comments on the proposed Land Use Plan and Ordinance. The public hearings will start at 6:00 p.m., and will be held at Rosenberg City Hall, 2110 Fourth Street, Rosenberg, TX 77471. Please note the following public hearing dates:

MONDAY, MARCH 17, 2008

MONDAY, MARCH 31, 2008

We appreciate our businesses!

On February 21, the Rosenberg Development Corporation (RDC) and the City partnered to recognize area businesses for their commitment to the community. The first annual **BUSINESS APPRECIATION RECEPTION**, held at the Rosenberg Civic and Convention Center, gave Rosenberg businesses the opportunity to meet and learn more about other area businesses, as well as receive information on City programs and projects.

Four businesses were recognized and awarded appreciation plaques for their achievements in 2007: **SeaTex, Ltd.** for relocating to Rosenberg with over 100 new jobs; **Star Cinema Grill** for reinvesting in an existing shopping center on Avenue H; **Frito-Lay's Rosenberg Plant** for their 25th anniversary; and **McCoy's Building Supply** for reinvesting on Avenue H. A representative from Star Cinema Grill was not present to accept their appreciation plaque.

Door prizes were awarded throughout the evening. Robert Duran, Duran's Carpentry, received a certificate for dinner with Mayor Joe M. Gurecky.



Pictured L-R: Bill Knesek, RDC; Pilor Tafares; Dave Tafares, Frito-Lay Plant Manager; Lacy Dunston, McCoy's Building Supply; Kelly Aimes, SeaTexas Vice President-Sales; Carrie Shelton, McCoy's Building Supply; Robert Duran; Mayor Joe M. Gurecky. Not pictured: Star Cinema Grill representative

Beautification Awards

The City's Image Committee proudly recognizes the following residents for their excellence in beautifying their property and for their efforts at making their spot in the world more appealing.

FEBRUARY 2008

Michelle Bartee
1211 Mulcahy

Helen Demney
1800 James

Mr. & Mrs. Denny Durflinger
1726 Village Court

Jean Frazier
1123 Lindsey

Jim & Sharon Patterson
1416 Tobola

MARCH 2008

Elaine Yang, Owner
Hunan Garden Restaurant
4601 Avenue H

Katharine Malinowski
2516 Avenue G

David Ortiz
610 Hawthorne Pasture

Bob & Joy Whitley
1201 Timberlane

Residential and commercial properties are nominated monthly by the Image Committee who is charged with developing community pride, promoting activities to improve the City's image and to positively influence public perception. The Committee meets quarterly at the Rosenberg Civic and Convention Center. For more information call 832-595-3960.



Focus on... the Rosenberg Police Department

The Rosenberg Police Department was recently reorganized to better serve citizens by more efficient policing. Police **CHIEF ROBERT GRACIA** noted the reorganization includes staff that are creative and proactive while giving 110 percent to the Department.

Lieutenant **AARON SLATER** was promoted and now heads up the PATROL DIVISION which coordinates the responsibilities of the department's sergeants and officers, the Field Training Officer program, Comstar, and Special Operations. The Comstar unit analyzes real-time crime data to coordinate patrols and specialized units, evaluate their effectiveness, and develop follow-up operations strategy.



Pictured L-R: Kaydey Brewster, Lieutenant DeWayne Logan, Lieutenant Aaron Slater

The OPERATIONS DIVISION is now headed by Lieutenant **DEWAYNE LOGAN** and addresses quality of life issues including jail operations, dispatch, animal control, police range, SWAT, records, fleet maintenance, and the newly formed Crime Free Multi-Housing Program. **KAYDEY BREWSTER**, formerly in the records department, has been promoted to work directly with Lieutenant Logan as a secretary in the Operations Division.

Rosenberg PD and City officials created an ordinance that encourages the participation of area communities in protecting the quality of life of their residents and communities. On April 3, 2007, City Council adopted Ordinance 2007-11 which amended the City's Code of Ordinances by establishing regulations concerning excessive Part 1 Crimes and Part 2 Crimes at apartment communities. With Ordinance 2007-11 in place, the Department registered to participate in the International Crime Free Multi-Housing Program, a crime prevention program created to reduce crime, drug, and gang activity in apartment communities. Essentially, the program protects the quality of life in apartment communities by making the communities' staff aware of prospective tenants and current tenants with undesirable traits that can bring harm or become a nuisance to other tenants. "CFMHP is a three part program. Each part is completed under the supervision of the Department and our certified Crime Free Program Coordinators," reported Chief Gracia. Communities are strongly encouraged to become certified by completing the necessary trainings and inspections.

The program requires designated officers to complete a crime prevention inspection of the property. If a community is not in compliance, the inspection will generate a list of actions or recommendations of tasks to be completed by the community to be in compliance with the ordinance. If crime in the community increases and the community is in compliance then there are no repercussions for the community. However, if crime increases at a community and the community is not in compliance with the City ordinance, there will be repercussions for the apartment community as stated in the ordinance. All community personnel are encouraged to attend an eight hour course specific to the program that is offered by the PD.

The CFMHP kicked off last year when the Department hosted a seminar and invited all area apartment community managers and their staff. Participants were provided an explanation of the "Excessive Criminal Activity at Certain Apartment Communities Ordinance" and how participation in the CFMHP benefits the community, residents, and the City. The program further includes training to ensure that the communities understand what is expected of them. The staff of 22 management teams were invited to participate in the first training; 16 accepted and participated. Subsequent training will be offered to those management teams unable to attend the first session. Area communities are encouraged, but not required to join the international organization established to represent the group, CFMHP. Joining provides registered properties access to program resources unavailable outside of the organization.

Once a community has joined the organization and is in compliance, the community's staff gains access to crime statistics specific to their property without having to request it, as in previous processes. Management will also receive an addendum to add to their lease agreements for new and renewing tenants to sign. This will grant access to tenants' and prospective tenants' criminal history and inform management of any interaction an individual may have had with the Rosenberg PD, within the limit and constraints of the law. Chief Gracia noted "This is a proactive program that enables the Department, property managers, as well as residents, to share responsibility with the Department to create and maintain a safe multi-housing environment here in Rosenberg."

Robert Gracia, Chief, Rosenberg Police Department



Zoning Ordinance to be Considered in November Election

On April 1, 2008, City Council approved a proposed Zoning Ordinance crafted by the 22-member Land Use Committee and directed the ordinance be put before Rosenberg's qualified voters on the November 4, 2008 election. The Ordinance, if approved, would create standards and criteria for zoning properties throughout the City to protect and strengthen the character and stability of the City's established residential and business areas. The City conducted public hearings to receive public input and requests for zoning on individual properties. For copies of the proposed Ordinance, contact the City Secretary's office at 832-595-3340.

Convention Center Named Department of the Month

The Rosenberg Civic & Convention Center staff was tapped as January's Department of the Month and members of the Parks and Recreation Department received recognition for their efforts in assisting convention center staff. The Convention Center, staffed by Assistant Manager **NELDA McGEE** and Reservations Clerk, **SHERRI HATHORN**, were nominated based on their outstanding performance in operating the facility while two staff members were on extended leaves. Members of the Parks Department were acknowledged for assisting the convention center staff on several significant events. Parks staff members **JESUS VARGAS**, **JAMES TAYLOR**, and **CHRIS VASQUEZ** were recognized for "doing whatever it took" to make sure rentals were completed successfully. Rosenberg's Department the Month program was established with City Council's approval to recognize departments that "go the extra mile."



Pictured L-R: City Manager Jack Hamlett, Chris Vasquez, James Taylor, Nelda McGee, Sherri Hathorn,

Four City Parks to Receive New Comfort Facilities

A contract was awarded to Wallis Concrete out of Wallis Texas for the fabrication and installation of four new park restroom units. These units are designed to replace the current restroom facilities at Sunset, Travis and Brazos and a new restroom unit will be installed at Community Park just north of Jackson Elementary School. Fabrication is underway of the new units with a delivery date to the parks planned for this summer. This Project is funded through the bond referendum that was approved by voters in November of 2006. City staff and the Parks Board have collaborated on the design of the units, investigated various design and material options and came up with a result that was visually appealing as well as durable. The final product will support these existing neighborhood parks. A summer ribbon cutting is planned.

John Brown Appointed to BOAT Board

JOHN BROWN, Building Official for the City, was installed as the Building Officials Association of Texas (BOAT) Director-at-Large at BOAT's Mid-Year General Business Meeting in February. An affiliate of the Texas Municipal League (TML), BOAT was organized to connect with other departments of Texas municipalities of the TML to achieve a more efficient and knowledgeable understanding of local government. Brown, a veteran building official holding ICC Master Code Professional certification, came to work with the City in May 2006. That same year, Brown received a BOAT Best Practices Award for the City of Rosenberg. Brown is currently serving his second year as the President of the ICC-Brazos Valley Chapter. Brown oversees the City's inspections department responsible for building, electrical, plumbing, mechanical, plan review, sign ordinance, and residential maintenance code enforcement.



Hi-Tech Project to Rehab Parts of Sanitary Sewer System

On April 1, 2008, the City Council continued its long term commitment to eliminate rainwater inflow and infiltration into the sanitary sewer collection system by approving the repair and rehabilitation of portions of the aging system. The project, which includes approximately 5,612 linear feet of pipe, will rehabilitate the main sewer line located along Avenue H from Sidney Street to the Fiesta store lift station and the area of Avenue D from Seventh Street to a point near Fifth Street where the line turns and continues to Avenue B. This project will primarily utilize "trenchless technology" which entails the use of a plastic polymer resin coated material that is inserted from existing manholes and pulled through the sanitary sewer line. The material is then heated with hot water, causing it to expand and effectively create a new, "cured in place" plastic pipe. After the plastic liner is installed, a robotic tool is used to reconnect the service lines to the new pipe. Some of the advantages in using this technology include: 1) lower installation costs when compared to traditional "open-trenching" methods of construction that require expensive road repairs; 2) traffic disruptions and street closures are minimized; 3) disruptions of sewer service are minimized. Work is expected to begin early May and should take approximately six weeks to complete, weather permitting. Questions regarding this project should be directed to the City's Citizen Relations desk at 832-595-3301 or the Utilities Department at 832-595-3583

Beautification Awards

The City's Image Committee proudly recognizes the following residents for their excellence in beautifying their property and for their efforts at making their spot in the world more appealing.

APRIL 2008

Magdalen Cardwell
1305 Lawrence

Mr. & Mrs. Edson Cortest
1606 Helmsley

Darin & Celsa Orsak
2702 Davis

Bernadette Toman
1713 McKinley

MAY 2008

Frankie & Deborah Fojtik
1806 Mulcahy

Larry & Gail Kociach
2405 Richard

Margie Rogers
1404 Mimosa

Jason & Christi Sebesta
1950 Briar Ridge

Clara Sulak
1621 Brazos

Residential and commercial properties are nominated monthly by the Image Committee who is charged with developing community pride, promoting activities to improve the City's image and to positively influence public perception. The Committee meets quarterly at the Rosenberg Civic and Convention Center. For more information call 832-595-3960.



Happy 125th Anniversary Rosenberg!

"A True Texas Community 125 Years in the Making."

June 2008

Focus on... the Information Services Department



The Rosenberg Information Services Department supports City-wide computing, telecommunication, and technology needs. The Department manages a local and wide area computer network comprised of 12 locations and 155 computer workstations while supporting more than 220 users of electronic mail, telephone services, and internet ensuring that City employees have access to these critical systems 99% of the time.

The Department supports two midrange system platforms, and seventeen other server platforms. Applications supported include financial accounting, payroll, personnel, fleet management, vehicle maintenance, utility billing, police applications, fire applications, building inspections, document management, and customer utility applications.

Our Department consists of three City staff members: myself, the Information Services Manager, **LARRY GOBAR**, PC-LAN Specialist, and **KEITH LEACH**, PC-LAN Specialist. Larry has been employed as a PC-LAN Specialist with Rosenberg since January of 2000 and Keith was hired by the City as a Dispatcher in August 2001, and moved to the IS department in April 2007. I moved here from Seguin in January 2007 to assume the IS Manager position.

Larry is this department's knowledge base. His longevity in the IS department means he has seen many of our systems since the day they were implemented. In fact, he most likely was instrumental in putting the majority of our current hardware and software in place. Having been a Dispatcher for almost six years, Keith knows our Police Department inside and out. In the time he has spent in the IS department, he has extended his knowledge to include a well rounded grasp of our entire infrastructure. I came to the City with over eighteen years of government experience, more than ten of that in the Information Technology arena. I am proud to say, our Department was named the City's department of the month for December 2007, and I was chosen as one of the 2007 Willie D. McQueen Employees of the Year.

Ongoing training is vital to Information Services. In addition to continually reading print and web articles to keep abreast of current and future technology developments, all three members continue to advance their learning to benefit their support of the City's IS needs. Keith has attended the New World Texas Regional User Group conference, and most recently, the New World System's Annual Conference. Larry will be attending the HTE User's Group Annual Conference, and I will be attending the Texas Association of Government Information Technology Manager's Annual Conference, both in June 2008.

Our technology is a crucial part of this City's infrastructure. The IS Department not only maintains our current infrastructure, we are continually looking for ways to improve our services to our customers. Just a few of the recent accomplishments of the IS department include the following:

- Upgrade of the Police Department's Dispatch Center. This included setting up a temporary Dispatch Center, while the renovations were being completed, then moving operations back to the upgraded communications center. The Police Department experienced no time lost or interruptions in communication services during this time.
- Upgrade of our HTE software from version 3.0 to the current 5.0 version. The newer software version provides some added functionality, in addition to upgraded management tools and some file system changes that improve system effectiveness. Also on the HTE side, a test environment was added, now allowing departments to evaluate changes before implementation.
- Continuing to provide frequent and timely updates to the City's web page to keep our citizens informed of the changes and status of the Proposed Zoning Ordinance and Proposed Zoning Maps.

Information Technology is a constantly evolving and growing discipline. In today's world, our IS department is vital to the effective functioning of our City and the services we provide. We continually strive to improve the operations of the City of Rosenberg. Thank you for allowing us that opportunity.

Mich Kobylarz, Information Services Manager



Pictured L-R: Keith Leach, Mich Kobylarz, Larry Gobar

City Advocates Renters' Health & Safety

The City became an advocate of all renters in Rosenberg when City Council adopted the Rental Property Inspection Program that protects renters by asking landlords to meet minimum standards. City Councilman James C. Hopkins reported "Just as the City is concerned about the health and safety standards of our food establishments, we are also concerned about our renters. It is important that renters, as well as property owners, are protected by the same standards. Therefore, it is the City's obligation to protect the general welfare of our citizens, as well as protect the character and stability of residential areas within the City." The inspection program will proactively monitor rental property standards to ensure the good health and safety of renters in Rosenberg and to improve the quality of life in the City's neighborhoods. The Rental Property Inspection Program regulations (Ordinance No. 2008-08) will take effect on July 1, 2008 and requires each rental unit within the City be registered with the Fire Marshall's office no later than October 1, 2008. The program is essentially a partnership with rental property owners, relying on the landlord to self certify the property by completing an initial inspection of their property using a checklist provided by the City. Once the self certification and rental registration application is complete, a rental registration permit will be issued for each rental unit; however, rental units will be subject to periodic inspections conducted by the City. Renters will have the ability to report possible violations by contacting the City's Fire Marshall office to report health and safety issues associated with the rental property. Alleged violations will be addressed to the landlord to resolve problems and abate any code violations found.

Sizzlin' Summer Events....

...will kickoff on July 4th with the City's signature event, **FAMILY 4TH CELEBRATION**, which also includes the official celebration of the City's 125th Anniversary. The 9th annual celebration will be held from 5-10 PM at the City's Seabourne Creek Park located at 3827 Texas 36 South. The event includes a concert by **THE TRIUMPHS**, a 90 minute **RADIO DISNEY** event, hay rides through Seabourne Creek Park, food, refreshments, fun and a great time. Family 4th Event Partnerships are available for businesses and individuals wishing to invest in the celebration. Call 832-595-3525 to request the 2008 Partnership Opportunities brochure.

Summer activities continue to heat up for the next six Friday's starting on July 11, when **LET IT RIDE** will perform at Third Street Park in the Historic Downtown District. The group consists of local talented entertainers performing rock n' roll, polkas, and country music that "keeps their fans on the dance floor all night long." July 18 brings the **LEVEL ONE BAND** and a new sound to Third Street Park. Considered a serious party band with a presence that provokes the senses. **ROB DARIEN & The Outside Dogs** come back on July 25 for their fourth year with Rob's old school honky-tonk and southern rock. Rob tells his crowds "We're gonna sing a few songs that you might not have ever heard and when we're through with those, we're gonna sing some songs that you ain't never heard." The next two performances will introduce two more new sounds to the summer concert series: On August 1, **EZRA CHARLES & The Works** returns with his "hot" keyboard performing R&B, boogie-woogie, and Texas rock & roll. **SHEILA MARSHALL** performs on August 8. A native of Nacogdoches, Sheila developed "a voice true to her surroundings" and heavily influenced by gospel, rock and roll and country music. She's released two CD's "Beautiful For Situation," and "Makes Perfect Sense" and is working on a third. The final sizzlin' sound of Rosenberg's summer, the **MOFO PARTY BAND**, will take the stage on August 15. Sponsored by their biggest fan, Bill Butler, this California group is one of the best blues bands on the west coast. **ALL CONCERTS ARE PRESENTED AT NO CHARGE, BEGIN AT 7 PM, AND WILL BE HELD RAIN OR SHINE.** Music enthusiasts are encouraged to bring family, friends, lawn chairs, and love of music. The Rosenberg Railroad Museum at 1921 Avenue F will host their pre-concert Hamburger Supper each Friday.

Employees of the Month

Jack Hamlett, City Manager, tapped three staff members the City's "Employees of the Month" based on their cross-departmental involvement in facilitating the gathering of information key to the proposed Zoning Ordinance voters will consider in November 2008. **ANTONIO HERRERA** and **SCOTT FREDERICK** of the City's Planning Department produced the residential census identifying approximately 97% of the City's residences which lead to the timely completion of a city-wide Land Use Map. **TIFFANY YBARRA** of the City Manager's Office, working with Herrera and Frederick, was key in organizing details for the Land Use Committee's consideration while meeting deadlines associated with the project. CONGRATULATIONS ANTONIO, SCOTT and TIFFANY! You did a great job!



Pictured L-R: Scorr Frederick, Tiffany Ybarra, Antonio Herrera, City Manager Jack Hamlett

June 2008

Beautification Awards

The City's Image Committee proudly recognizes the following residents for their excellence in beautifying their property and for their efforts at making their spot in the world more appealing. Awards recognizes both landscaping and renovation improvements.

Ron Brock
2825 Avenue G

Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Gomez
1319 Damon Street

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Lev
7407 Summer Night

Lee & Tessa Ohl
2542 Pecan Drive

Benny & Claudie Wleczyk
1318 Allen

Residential and commercial properties are nominated monthly by the Image Committee charged with developing community pride, promoting activities to improve the City's image and to positively influence public perception.



CONGRATULATIONS
NELMA McGEE,
Author of the City's Official
125th Anniversary Theme:
"Rosenberg...A True Texas
Community
125 Years in the Making"



Focus on... Animal Control



Pictured L-R: Jackie Jurasek, Shelly Crouse & two friends up for adoption.

...it's much more than just catching animals.

A day in the life of the Animal Control Division is not just about rounding up stray animals... on any given day Rosenberg's Animal Control officers might catch and relocate an alligator, retrieve a mama possum and babies from a trash can, adopt out a cat, dog or bird, take a fledgling great horned owl to a rehabilitation facility, be an animal trainer, a teacher, or serve as a mediator. It goes without saying that the City's Animal Control Officers are faced with and handle an eclectic mix of animal related challenges... as well as opportunities. Dispatched through the Police Department, the Animal Control Officers (no longer referred to as "dog catchers") take on any animal related problem.

Officer **JACKIE JURASEK**, the supervisor of the division, came to Rosenberg nine years ago and brought with her the *Pet of the Week* adoption program. The program includes featuring stray dogs and cats in the local newspaper with a short biography and a photo to encourage citizens to adopt from the shelter and "save a life." All dogs and cats adopted out of the Rosenberg facility have been neutered and rabies vaccinated -- and the program is slowly stemming the flow of unwanted litters of kittens and puppies arriving at the facility. To facilitate animal adoptions, the division relies on the talents of volunteers to expedite adoptions by bathing and grooming the animals, as well as managing adoption paperwork. The volunteers also work closely with animal rescue groups.

Jurasek also trains dogs for obedience and retriever training and gives advice to pet owners who are having problems with their pets. As a result of Jurasek's dedication and ability to recognize the dangerous signs that could spell trouble for an unsuspecting owner, she has helped countless pet owners turn their "pests" back into "pets".

SHELLY CROUSE, the division's Field Officer, can be seen buzzing all over the City as she answers complaints of citizens from Rude to Grande Gables Road all the while saving stray animals that are running loose and in danger of being hit by a car. Officer Crouse also protects the citizens from dangerous and aggressive dogs that could injure an unsuspecting pedestrian.

Jurasek serves as the Division's educator, going into the local schools to speak to pre-school through sixth grade students about humane animal treatment and animal bite safety, as well as how to be a responsible and caring pet owner. She also champions her causes by making presentations to local organizations such as the Rosenberg Rotary Club.

Crouse handles numerous wildlife calls; many focusing on snake and bat complaints. "Nothing raises the blood pressure of an excited homeowner more than a snake lurking in the rafters of their patio," reports Crouse. When called, Animal Control captures, removes, and relocates the intruding snake. When advised of a downed bat, the Officer quickly contains, safely removes, and delivers the bat to Houston for testing since the flying mammals are a high risk carrier for rabies.

Another aspect of the Animal Control Officer's duties include mediating animal issues between unhappy neighbors. Officer Jurasek noted that "a dog barking at 2 a.m. is enough to make the next door neighbor climb the walls of the bedroom that faces the noise." The frustrated complainant calls Animal Control for help and, armed with suggestions for the dog owner, the Officer is usually successful in returning peace and harmony to the neighborhood.

Always ready for the unexpected, Rosenberg's Animal Control Officers have been called to investigate a camel in a back yard and a tiger on the side of FM 2218. According to Officer Jurasek, "this profession is pretty much like Forrest Gump said.....it's like a box of chocolates, you never know what you are going to get."

To learn more about the Animal Control Division call 832-595-3490.



Important Zip Code Announcement

The U. S. Postal Service has announced 40,000 homes and businesses in this area are getting new zip codes effective July 1. However, **ZIP CODES WILL NOT CHANGE FOR ROSENBERG RESIDENTS.** Residents living in the Rosenberg 77469 zip code will not be affected by the changes. Contact the local post office if you have questions or call 1-800-ASK-USPS.

125th Celebration includes City's "Greatest Treasures" and "Talent"

The City's 125th Committee has announced two important anniversary activities. The first honors the City's elder citizens. In May, City Council designated the month as *Older Americans Month*; to further honor the City's older Americans, the 125th Celebration will include identifying and honoring Rosenberg's 125 oldest citizens, our **GREATEST TREASURES.** To learn more about the 125 Greatest Treasures, contact Melissa Pena at 832-595-3500. The second activity involves the search for **TALENT**...a Photo Competition for photographers to creatively "celebrate the place over 30,000 proudly call home." The competition is open to amateur and professional photographers at least 18 years of age, as well as youth photographers ages 13 to 17. **FOCUS ON ROSENBERG PHOTO COMPETITION** entries must be received by September 1. To register to participate, contact Camille Prat at 832-595-3525 or camillep@ci.rosenberg.tx.us.



Your drinking water meets or exceeds EPA requirements.

The City's 2007 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report has been mailed to each resident and business receiving a City utility bill. The US Environment Protection Agency requires that all drinking water suppliers in the country provide a water quality report to their customers annually. The report is a summary of the quality of water the City provides to our customers and notes that the City's drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal (EPA) drinking water requirements. The City Utilities Department is responsible for the production, treatment and distribution of drinking water in Rosenberg. For information call 832-595-3582 or visit www.ci.rosenberg.tx.us.



Sidewalk Bond Project

Sidewalk construction on Avenue N from Radio Lane to Graeber Road began June 2 and should be complete before the start of the school year. The project, funded through the November 2006 Bond Referendum overwhelmingly approved by Rosenberg voters, will provide a safe pedestrian route to neighborhood schools. Construction notifications were distributed to property owners along Avenue N. Sections of driveways will be repoured with the new sidewalks; residents in the impacted area should park on side streets as driveways are repoured. Trinity Civil Contracting, Inc., the contractor for the project, will place traffic control and safety devices as necessary during the construction period.



SAVE THESE DATES!

July 11	Summer Concert #1 featuring Let it Ride
July 18	Summer Concert #2 featuring the Level One Band
July 25	Summer Concert #3 featuring Rob Darien & The Outside Dogs
August 1	Summer Concert #4 featuring Ezra Charles & The Works
August 8	Summer Concert #5 featuring The Sheila Marshall Band
August 15	Summer Concert #6 featuring the MoFo Party Band

All concerts begin at 7 p.m. and are held in the park on Third Street between Avenues F and G in the Historic Downtown District. The Railroad Museum at 1921 Avenue F will host a Hamburger Supper before each concert.

July 2008

Beautification Awards

The City's Image Committee proudly recognizes the following residents and businesses for their excellence in beautifying their property and for their efforts at making their spot in the world more appealing. Awards recognizes both landscaping and renovation improvements.

Janet & Michael Eder
1010 Timberlane

Emma & Johnny Kujawa
5219 Texas 36 South

Cheryl & Donnie Taylor
2308 Jones

Blue Wave Car Wash
6622 Reading Road

Whitney Bank
24706 Southwest Freeway

Residential and commercial properties are nominated monthly by the Image Committee charged with developing community pride, and promoting activities to improve the City's image.

ATTENTION RECYCLERS!

Rosenberg's
Unmanned
Drop-Off
Recycling Center
is open!
3720 Airport Road

Open 24 hours,
7 days a week.

Learn more:
Call 832-595-3960



Happy 125th Anniversary Rosenberg!

"A True Texas Community 125 Years in the Making."

August 2008

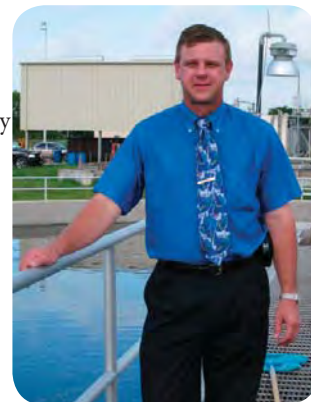
Focus on... Utilities

The Rosenberg Utilities Department operates and maintains the water and sanitary sewer systems. This past year, the Utilities Department was reorganized to better serve our citizens by providing management directly responsible for operations of the water and wastewater utility division. This was accomplished by establishing an Utilities Director position that was filled by **JOHN MARESH** in November 2007.

The Utilities Department employs 22 dedicated employees that are responsible for the safe operation of the systems. Many of the daily operations are directed by long-time employees **KARL ZWAHR**, Utilities Supervisor (31 years of service), and **LLOYD "DEAN" MILLER**, Water/Wastewater Crew Chief (26 years of service). Some of the daily responsibilities include: completing customer service calls to connect or disconnect services, re-read water meters, flush water mains, maintain fire hydrants, repair water leaks, install water taps and meters for new customers and replace inoperable water meters, locate city owned utility lines, and monitor water wells and chlorine disinfection levels. Other duties include responding to sewer stoppages in city main lines, installing new sewer taps, replacing deteriorated taps, and repairing manholes.

Major goals of the Department include: 1) provide a safe drinking water supply and wastewater collection/treatment facilities to the community in a cost-effective and efficient manner with minimal service disruptions, 2) complete a city-wide water meter replacement program that includes automating the meter reading system, 3) continuation of an aggressive plan to repair/replace sanitary sewer lines to eliminate unwanted rainwater inflow/infiltration from entering the sewer system, 4) ensure all facilities remain in compliance with local, state, and federal agencies, 5) provide timely responses to customer service calls and, 6) completion of the \$12 million dollar expansion project to increase the capacity of Wastewater Treatment Plant #2 from 3 million gallons per day to 4.5 million gallons per day.

UTILITIES FACTS: Rosenberg has 142 miles of water distribution lines, 1,272 fire hydrants, 7 water plants, 135 miles of sanitary sewer collection lines, 27 lift stations, 3 wastewater treatment plants, and approximately 8,375 water meters. Utilities Department employees are on-call 24/7 to respond to emergencies.



John Maresch



Pictured: Karl Zwahr and Dean Miller

In an effort to improve operational efficiencies, the daily operations and maintenance responsibilities for the three wastewater treatment plants was outsourced to a private company, SouthWest Water Company, in 2006. The Department is also looking at other opportunities to use new technology and automation whenever possible to streamline operations.

Ordinance 2007-40 updated the state mandated cross-connection and backflow program to protect the Public Water System from contamination. The Code Enforcement Department has teamed with the Utilities Department to implement the inspection and annual testing requirements. Lawn irrigation systems are the most common installations requiring a backflow device.

The Utilities Department staff is preparing a Water Conservation Plan that must be completed by May 1, 2009. A landscape irrigation ordinance requiring new system installations to use water conservation designs and equipment will become state mandated in January 2009.

ATTENTION RENTAL PROPERTY OWNERS

The City's **RENTAL PROPERTY INSPECTION PROGRAM** took effect July 1. Each rental unit within the City should be registered with the Fire Marshal's office before the **OCTOBER 1, 2008 DEADLINE**. No registration fees apply; however, late registrations will be assessed fees. Go to www.ci.rosenberg.tx.us for an Application and Self-Inspection Checklist. Call the Fire Marshal's office at 832-595-3645 for more information.

SHERRI NICHOLS of the Code Enforcement Department and **LINDA DOMINGUEZ** of the Finance Department, received the coveted Employees of the Month award based on their activities to file liens on properties for code enforcement violations and building demolitions. John Maresh, Utilities Director, noted that "their hard work and dedication resulted in the collection of thousands of dollars in lien payments that previously would have gone uncollected. The motivation, self-initiation, and organizational skills of these two employees make them well deserving of the honor and recognition of being named Employees of the Month." **CONGRATULATIONS, LADIES. GREAT JOB!**

Employees of the Month



(L-R) Utilities Director John Maresh; Finance Director Mindi Snyder; Sherri Nichols; Linda Dominguez; City Manager Jack Hamlett

Let's all work to exceed expectations... Everyday someone comes to Rosenberg for the first time; and it is the City's collective goal to exceed the visitor's expectations while adding value to their experience. Great goal. Exactly how do we do that? Simply put... keep the City looking good by regular maintenance of property; and the first simple step in property maintenance is regular mowing. So, do you know what your responsibilities are when it comes to mowing your property? City Ordinance mandates that if you own, occupy, or have control of any property in the City limits, then it's your responsibility to be sure the property is regularly mowed to assure vegetation does not exceed 12" in height. Additionally, the area for which you are responsible to maintain extends from your property line to the curb and if there is no curb, to the edge of the street. There are, however, exemptions for wooded acreage, farm land, and pastures. Learn more by calling the Code Enforcement Department at 832-595-3540. [*Rosenberg Code of Ordinances, Chapter 14, Article 2, Section 14.29*]



(L-R) Front row: Timmy Mensik, Daijan Malpica, Olivia Gonzales, Leonardo Ayala, Christopher Lerma, Gabbie Almazan. Second row: Molly Bentancur, Megan Gonzales, Rebekka Zirbes, Angel Sierra, Dominic Butler, Matthew Mejia. Third Row: Brianna Rodriguez, Jacob Rodriguez, Celina Lerma, Taylor Lyons, John Rodriguez, Noah Gonzales, Michael Mejia. Back row: Jose Morales, Coordero Compean, Caren Cardwell, Tony Sanchez, Auriana Compean

The Kids Summer Recreation Program might be over... *but the kids won't soon forget the good times!*

Thank you Rosenberg Parks & Recreation Department, Recreation Program staff, and the staff of LCISD's Bowie Elementary for making our summer program a success! But most importantly, our sincere thanks to the parents who permitted their children to participate.

August 2008

Beautification Awards

The City's monthly Beautification Awards recognizes excellence in both landscaping and renovation improvements. The Image Committee proudly recognizes the following businesses and residents for taking pride in where they live and do business.

RENOVATION AWARDS

Dr. David Hobson
4411 Avenue N

KFC
3620 Avenue H

LANDSCAPE AWARDS

Ms. Dale Luce
5510 Walnut Glen

Mr. & Mrs. Jose Maldonado
3315 Avenue O

Parkview Townhomes
1300 Damon

Jeannette Pietsch
3003 West Street

Walter Tappe, Jr.
2633 Parkway

ATTENTION RECYCLERS

*Take advantage
of your
Recycling Center*

*Drop-Off Center
Open 24 hours,
7 days a week.*

3720 Airport Ave.

INFORMATION
832-595-3960



Happy 125th Anniversary Rosenberg!

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September 2008

Rosenberg INSIDER

Focus on... City Secretary

History shows the Municipal Clerk (or today's City Secretary), as one of the oldest of public servants in local government, along with the tax collector. The profession traces back before Biblical times referencing early keepers of archives as Remembrancers, as their memory served as the public record. When the early colonists came to America they set up forms of local government and the office of clerk was one of the first to be established. Today, City Secretary **LINDA CERNOSEK** is at the "hub" of Rosenberg's government with the responsibility of keeping the public record.

Cernosek's road to becoming the City Secretary wasn't just by a City Council appointment; it required training and certification. Cernosek holds a TRMC (Texas Registered Municipal Clerk) designation after completing a multi-year program through the University of North Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program.

The City Secretary is responsible for all aspects of the City's municipal records; managing records according to the City's Records Management Program; posting agendas; compiling written minutes of meetings; publishing legal notices in accordance with State Law; and coordinating the codification of City ordinances into the Code of Ordinances. Her Records Management activities are similar to those of a librarian: managing the records and researching the documents. With the use of an electronic document management system (EDMS), city records are scanned in and indexed into the City's EDMS system. By filing documents electronically, the records are easily retrieved and searched; a useful and quick tool in managing and researching documents for information and historical purposes.

The City Secretary has a staff of two, Executive Secretary **CHRIS KRAHN** and Records Clerk **BARBARA GRITCZEK**, who prepare proclamations and certificates, receive and open bids, field open records requests, maintain the Mayor and City Council member's calendars, and facilitate the annual City-wide auction. Additionally, Cernosek, who serves as the City's election administrator, and her staff are making preparations for the November 4, 2008 election which will include a for-or-against zoning proposition. This election, jointly held with Fort Bend County, provides for approximately twelve voting locations throughout the City, affording qualified voters in the City every opportunity possible to vote.

To say Cernosek and her staff are at the "hub" of Rosenberg's government is an understatement. The City Secretary's office takes great pride in their ability to provide the most up-to-date, accurate information concerning Rosenberg's legislative process. The City Secretary's office is located at City Hall and can be reached by calling 832-595-3340.



Pictured: Barbara Gritczek, Chris Krahn, Linda Cernosek



Front row: **JOHN SOTELLO**, **DAISY TORRES**, **OLGA MARTINEZ**, Customer Service Supervisor Janice Edmonds, and Finance Director Mindi Snyder. Back row: City Manager Jack Hamlett, Utilities Supervisor Karl Zwahr, Water/Wastewater Crew Chief Dean Miller, and **LUIS GARZA**.

Employees Commended for Exceptional Teamwork

At a surprise presentation on August 21, four employees in two departments were tapped as **EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH** for "their positive attitudes and teamwork" during a recent staff shortage. Kudos to **LUIS GARZA**, **DAISY TORRES**, and **OLGA MARTINEZ** of the Customer Service Department, and **JOHN SOTELLO** in the Utilities Department/Meter Reading Division for your contributions and willingness to do whatever it takes to get the job done. **CONGRATULATIONS LUIS, DAISY, OLGA, AND JOHN!**

Rental Permit Deadline Fast Approaching

Under the provisions of the **RENTAL INSPECTION PROGRAM**, rental units are to be registered with the Fire Marshal's office before **OCTOBER 1, 2008**. Rental property owners should call the Fire Marshal's office at 832-595-3645 for more information, or go to www.ci.rosenberg.tx.us for an Application and Self-Inspection Checklist.

City Election Scheduled

On November 4, the City will conduct a City Election to consider approval of the proposed Zoning Ordinance. The following "Frequently Asked Questions" are provided to give an overview of the proposed Zoning Ordinance and how its provisions impact property owners within Rosenberg's City Limits.

Where will the proposed Zoning Ordinance apply?

All properties located within the Rosenberg City Limits.

How does a zoning ordinance impact Rosenberg's citizens?

Without zoning, any properties may be used for any legal use regardless of adjacent uses and the City cannot prevent such uses on adjacent properties.

What are the proposed Zoning Districts?

The following are the districts and uses granted by the proposed Zoning Ordinance: (1) *Commercial District* – C: General Office; Retail facilities established for the sale of goods and services; and Light Industrial. (2) *Industrial District* – I: Uses permitted in Commercial District; Light Industrial; and Heavy Industrial. (3) *Mixed Use District* – M: Commercial; Single Family; and Multifamily. (4) *Multifamily Residential District* – M: Apartments; Condominiums; Duplexes; Mobile Home Parks; Townhouses; and Single Family Units. (5) *Single Family Residential District* – SF: Detached, single family residential dwellings and approved accessory structures; and home occupations. (6) *Open District* – O: Farming, ranching, related activities and accessory uses; Parks; and Single family residential dwellings(s); provided, that single family residential development, requiring a subdivision of land, shall be prohibited.

What happens to a business located in a proposed residential district?

The proposed Zoning Ordinance does allow for nonconforming uses to continue provided certain conditions are met. Additionally, the proposed Zoning Ordinance has provided owners the right to rebuild in case of destruction by fire, wind, natural disaster, etc.

What is a Conditional Use Permit?

A Conditional Use Permit (CUP) is a permit required for particular uses in each district as defined by the proposed Zoning Ordinance. These uses have unusual characteristics that may produce nuisances or other impacts. However, these uses are otherwise desirable for the community. During the review process, the Planning Department, Planning and Zoning Commission, and City Council will consider impacts on surrounding property, adequate prevention measures to control created nuisances, and screening/buffering.

Who will administer the proposed Zoning Ordinance?

The Planning Department will primarily be responsible for administration and record keeping. The Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council will consider any requests for changes to the proposed Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map.

Where can I obtain a copy of the proposed Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map?

The proposed Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map are posted on the City of Rosenberg Homepage at www.ci.rosenberg.tx.us and are available for viewing at the City Secretary's Office located in Rosenberg City Hall at 2110 4th Street or the Planning Department located in the City Hall Annex at 2220 4th Street. Requests for hard copies of the proposed Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map must be made through the City Secretary's Office.

What if a current City Ordinance conflicts with the proposed Zoning Ordinance or vice versa?

The more restrictive requirement(s) will be imposed.

Public meetings will be held to provide additional information on the proposed Zoning Ordinance. Contact the City Secretary's office for dates and locations at 832-595-3340.

Only registered voters may vote in the City Election. If you wish to vote, you must complete a voter registration application with the Fort Bend County Elections Administration Department by Monday, October 6, 2008. A voter registration application is available at the City Secretary's Office. For additional information, call 832-595-3340.

ELECTION DAY IS NOVEMBER 4

Register to vote
before October 6.

Call for Information
281-341-8670 or
832-595-3340

September 2008 Beautification Awards

Each month the City presents awards for excellence in both landscaping and renovation improvements. The Rosenberg Image Committee proudly recognizes the following businesses and residents for taking pride in where they live and do business.

LANDSCAPE AWARDS

Marvin & Jeanette
Ubernosky
2127 Mons Avenue

Daniel & Irene Castillo
1320 Walenta Avenue

Harry & Delores Wolff
1114 Elizabeth Avenue

Lupe & Yolie Garcia
1109 Ward Street

Mr. & Mrs. Blas Rodriguez, Jr.
3915 Marilyn Street

PLEASE RECYCLE

It's the right thing to do!

**Rosenberg's Drop-Off
Recycling Center is
open 24 hours,
7 days a week.**

**3720 Airport Ave.
INFORMATION
832-595-3960**

SAVE THE DATES!

Sept 26
Fort Bend County Fair

Oct 11
Rosenberg Railroad
Museum RailFest

Oct 18
Ride to Rosenberg
Car Show

Oct 25
BOOberg Fall Festival



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October 2008

Focus on... Finance



Mindi Snyder

Although the Finance Department plays a vital role in the essential operations of any Municipality, after being at the City of Rosenberg for just over a year now, I can wholeheartedly say that the Finance staff here is completely dedicated to serving the public and their co-workers to the best of their ability. The routine functions of processing Payroll and Accounts Payable, as well as monitoring budget accounts, must be performed. Annual processes such as the preparation of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and Citywide Budget also occupy much of our time. The staff has continued to win awards year after year from the Government Finance Officers Association for the CAFR and the annual Budget.

To give a little background on the staff members involved, I would like to start with **CATHY EZELL**, Finance Manager, whose institutional experience here is invaluable. Everyone knows that if all else fails when tracking down something old that happened years ago, Cathy will know or find the answer. Cathy started with the City in 1998 in Customer Service and moved up through the Department holding the positions of Accounts Payable Clerk and

Budget Analyst. Cathy worked to complete a Bachelor of Science in Business Degree in Accounting from The University of Phoenix while working full-time here and carrying out her most important role as a single mother of twin boys, currently age 12. In addition to this, she obtained the certification of Certified Government Finance Officer (CGFO) through the state certification process and served as President of the local Chapter of the Gulf Coast Finance Officers Association.

CHRISTINE DO is our newest staff member with 17 months and came to us with Municipal experience from the Mayor's office in New York City. Yes, she worked there during the historic 9-11 event under Mayor Giuliani. Christine is our Budget Analyst and after starting last year right at the beginning of the budget cycle has jumped in to be our backup with Purchasing and Accounts Payable and is pursuing the certification of CGFO.

MARITZA SALAZAR has been with the City of Rosenberg since 1998 and her institutional knowledge with the City is also invaluable. She also started with the City in Customer Service and focused on Building Permits and was the Assistant Customer Service Supervisor. She moved into Finance and has served as an Accounting Clerk since 2004. Her expertise in tracking grants has been commended by outside agencies and everyone that knows her loves her because of her infectious smile. Maritza is also pursuing the certification of CGFO.

LORI DRESNER has served as our reliable Payroll Clerk since 2003. She has attended various training sessions focusing on the laws governing payroll and always gives it her all to process our payroll in the required time frame and work through all of the various issues that arise. Lori also holds an Associate Degree in Accounting.

FRAN FRELICH is our extraordinary Accounts Payable Clerk. She started with the City in 2005 and has taken on this process and made it her own. Her extreme attention to detail is known by all and I am sure that all of the vendors associated with the City of Rosenberg appreciate her promptness in processing payables.

In summary, although the numbers are serious business, Finance has lots of personality to go around. Although we are considered the Police of the Accounting world, we are truly approachable and are always here and willing to answer questions and do whatever we can do to make things run as smoothly as possible.

Mindi Snyder, Finance Director



Front: Christine Do, Lori Dresner, Maritza Salazar. Back: Cathy Ezell, Fran Frellich.

REMINDER: CITY ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 4

On November 4, Rosenberg will conduct a City Election to consider approval of the proposed Zoning Ordinance.

Visit www.ci.rosenberg.tx.us for a complete review of the proposed Zoning Ordinance.

"Ike" is a name Rosenberg won't soon forget.

Well before Hurricane Ike was officially deemed an imminent threat to the Texas gulf coast, Assistant Police Chief and Emergency Management Coordinator, **DALLIS WARREN**, was planning and coordinating emergency management

"I am proud of Rosenberg. Our residents heeded warnings, protected their homes and businesses, sought safe haven during the storm; and then, when it was over, they quickly began getting things back in order. While it might take some time to get all the debris removed, we are heading in the right direction. Our pre-storm and post-storm planning paid off. Much thanks should also be given to City staff who made Rosenberg their primary responsibility -- before, during, and after Ike -- leaving their families and homes to focus on the needs of Rosenberg."

Mayor Joe M. Gurecky

the event, Warren and Rosenberg Fire Marshal, **WADE GOATES**, maintained contact with Fort Bend County's EOC. Immediately following Ike's departure, staff began clearing roadways and assessing damages to City facilities. Public Safety, Public Works, and Parks personnel sprang into post-storm recovery mode and began the process of dividing the City into quadrants to accurately report downed trees, downed power lines, and traffic signals. Utilities personnel assessed conditions at water plants and lift stations confirming Rosenberg's water source was not compromised. A 7 pm to 7 am curfew was implemented on September 13 and resinded on the 16th. Rosenberg's recovery began immediately following the storm thanks to hearty residents and businesses as well as City staff.

Thanks to a partnership agreement with Fort Bend County, a debris management plan was activated to address the removal of hurricane debris.

The debris management plan consists of three "passes" throughout the county to collect limbs and shrubbery, and now bagged debris, over the next six to

nine weeks. For more information and updates on the debris management program, go to www.fortbendcountygov.com. In the spirit of "neighbor helping neighbor," Warren skillfully coordinated with the state and FEMA to set up a Point of Distribution (POD) site at **LOWE'S** on Texas 36 on September 16. Lowe's partnered with the City in this effort volunteering many of their staff to man the POD to distribute water, ice, and countless bags of chips donated by Rosenberg's own **FRITO LAY**. Yes...none of us will forget Ike anytime soon.



Dallis Warren



THANK YOU
Lowe's & Frito Lay!



**Hurricane Ike debris field at
Fort Bend County Fairgrounds**

October 2008

Beautification Awards

The City's monthly Beautification Awards recognize excellence in both landscaping and renovation improvements. The Image Committee proudly recognizes the following businesses and residents for taking pride in where they live and do business.

RENOVATION AWARDS

Ron & Susie Russell
1603 Junker

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Leblanc
1703 Junker

LANDSCAPE AWARDS

Bretheren Church
5220 Reading Road

Jesse Carranza &
Larry Lindemann
1306 Ward

Marty & Laura Rodgers
1005 Grunwald Heights

Felix & Sandra Tejada
2109 Spruce

Elias & Diane Zepeda
2217 Bernie

DO YOU OWN RENTAL PROPERTY IN ROSENBERG?

Any persons owning
residential rental property
must register with the
Fire Marshal's Office.

CALL FOR DETAILS
832-595-3634

**EXERCISE
YOUR RIGHT TO
VOTE ON
NOVEMBER 4.**



Happy 125th Anniversary Rosenberg!

"A True Texas Community 125 Years in the Making."

November 2008

Rosenberg INSIDER

Focus on... Economic Development

What does "economic development" mean to you? Basically, economic development activities seek to improve the economic well-being and quality of life for your community by working to create and retain jobs and to maintain a stable tax base. The City's Economic Development Department, staffed by myself and **CYNDY POWELL**, the Assistant Director, focuses our energies on business recruitment, retention, and expansion. We do this by concentrating our efforts on marketing, workforce development, research, and infrastructure planning. However, the City's primary tool for economic development is a non-profit "4B" economic development corporation authorized by the voters in 1995 – the Rosenberg Development Corporation (RDC).

The RDC has a board of seven members; four, including all of the officers, are appointed by City Council, and three members are Councilors. Funded by a one-half cent sales tax dedicated to economic development, the RDC engages in projects related to



Cyndy Powell & Matt Fielder



Rosenberg was recently recognized by the Texas Economic Development Council (TEDC) with their Community Economic Development Award for the recruitment of Seatex, Ltd. The TEDC acknowledged the actions of the City Council and the RDC Board in helping recruit the company, as well as citing examples of the project's innovation, transferability, community leverage, measured objectives, and secondary benefits. Pictured Front (L-R): Councilor Antonio Martinez, Councilor Waline Sebesta, Mayor Joe Gurecky, RDC Board Member Janie Warstler, Councilor Joe Segura. Back (L-R): RDC Board Member Allen Scopel, Councilor Dwayne Grigar, RDC Board Member Don Kolkmeier, Councilor Carl Hopkins, Economic Development Assistant Director Cyndy Powell, Councilor Tom Suter, Economic Development Director Matt Fielder. Not pictured: RDC Board President Bill Knesek.

primary job creation to infuse new dollars into the local economy by creating or selling a product or service that is ultimately exported to regional, state, national, or international markets. These types of projects include those that directly create or retain primary jobs, as well as certain other categories of economic and community development activities.

Since its creation 13 years ago, the RDC has funded a number of infrastructure projects, including the construction of U.S. Highway 59 Frontage Roads, the FM 723 Overpass, improvements to 4th Street from Parrott Avenue to Avenue M, drainage improvements at the intersection of West Street and Bernard Avenue, the construction of the Rosenberg Civic and Convention Center, the Reading Road/U.S. Highway 59 Interchange, expansion of Louise Street, the extension of Reading Road, and infrastructure improvements for the Brazos Town Center. In addition, the RDC has utilized its ability to offer economic development incentives and construct new infrastructure to recruit and retain a number of companies.

In addition, the RDC works with existing local businesses to help them grow and succeed. These efforts include meeting with local business people to better understand their challenges, working on behalf of businesses to address potential concerns with the City, and to recognize local businesses for their successes. Earlier this year, the RDC hosted a special reception to recognize four businesses for their accomplishments. Another business recognition event is planned for early 2009.

Other activities undertaken by the Economic Development Department include serving as a liaison with the West Fort Bend Management District, as well as working with the Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone #1 Board and the Downtown Project Advisory Task Force to develop a plan to upgrade certain infrastructure, such as sidewalks, in the City's historic downtown area. For more information on the department and activities, visit www.RosenbergEcoDev.com or call 832-595-3330.

Matt Fielder, Economic Development Director

CITY FACILITIES WILL BE CLOSED... Thursday, November 27 and Friday, November 28 to observe the Thanksgiving holidays; and on Thursday, December 25 and Thursday January 1, 2009 in observance of Christmas and New Years. THERE WILL BE NO TRASH PICKUP ON THOSE DATES. Trash will be collected on the next regularly scheduled pickup day. For information, call the Citizens Relations Coordinator at 832-595-3301 or Allied Waste at 713-937-9955.



The following employees were honored for "their diligence, dedication, outstanding teamwork, and commitment to the City and its citizens." **JOB WELL DONE, EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH!** Pictured (L-R): Front: Melissa Pena, Camille Prat, Christine Do, Ashley Williams; Middle: Brittnei Garcia, Sheila Minks, Tiffany Ybarra, Cyndy Powell; Back: Scott Frederick, Antonio Herrera, Tunde Agunbiade. Not pictured: Yolanda McLin.

Valued Employees of the Month

Recently, twelve City employees stepped away from their busy desks to take on a "monumental" task of compiling thousands of packets of information about Rosenberg. In just a few short hours, the Terrific Twelve skillfully managed to simplify what could have been a very complicated process, and collated and filled a staggering seven thousand packets with approximately nine pieces of information each. The twelve employees consisting of full time staff, part time staff, and interns were awarded the prestigious **EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH** designation for "their diligence, dedication, outstanding teamwork, and commitment to the City and its citizens." **KUDOS, TEAM! JOB WELL DONE!**

Fred DeLeon Earns Certification

FRED DELEON has earned his professional Code Enforcement Officer Certification after completing the Code Enforcement Association of Texas Basic Code Enforcement Officer training and subsequent written examination; thus meeting the State's requirement of certification for Code Enforcement Officers. DeLeon has been with the City since 1997 working first with the Streets Department, then Water/Wastewater, and now in the City's Code Enforcement Division. His key responsibilities now include investigating compliance of ordinance violations, inspecting substandard structures and/or dangerous buildings, ensuring compliance with the City's high weed and nuisance ordinance, inspecting mobile homes, mobile home parks, and junk and salvage yards, issuing code violation notification letters, and assisting with building inspections. **CONGRATULATIONS, FRED! WELL DONE!**



November 2008 Beautification Awards

The City's Beautification Awards recognize excellence in both landscaping and renovation improvements. The Image Committee proudly recognizes the following businesses and residents for taking pride in where they live and do business.

RENOVATION AWARDS

Kyle & Melissa Stavino
1415 Rice Street

LANDSCAPE AWARDS

Jim & Jan Hollan
1109 Easy Street

Bennie & Velma Hustede
3703 Glenmeadow

Allen Sulak & Arely Martel
803 Klare

Linda Nicodemus
1221 Easy Street

Ralph & Frances Villarreal
2003 Franklin Circle

SAVE THESE DATES!

**Wednesday,
December 3
Gazebo Lighting
6 pm @ City Hall**

**Saturday,
December 6
Christmas
in Rosenberg
3-9 pm
In the Historic
Downtown District**

SMOKE ALARMS DO SAVE LIVES!

It's a proven fact. The best defense against fire is to have a properly installed and working smoke alarm in your home. Smoke alarms provide an early warning that gives you and your loved ones critical time to escape a fire. The Rosenberg Fire Department participates in a statewide program to equip homes with a device at no charge. Learn how you can benefit. Call the Rosenberg Fire Department at 832-595-3600 and ask about the SMOKE ALARM IN EVERY HOME program.

RECYCLING IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO.

Recycling Center
3720 Airport Ave.
Open 24/7

Information
832-595-3960



Happy 125th Anniversary Rosenberg!

"A True Texas Community 125 Years in the Making."

December 2008

Rosenberg INSIDER

Focus on... Public Works

The Rosenberg Public Works Department, under the direction of **KENNETH JANSKY**, is comprised of the Streets & Drainage and Fleet Maintenance Divisions. The department's administration office staff, which includes **DEBORAH ALMAZAN** and **JESSICA LUNA**, is responsible for the bidding and management of maintenance contracts. Those contracts include: street sweeping, right-of-way mowing, janitorial services, mosquito spraying, solid waste services, and the annual tree trimming. Kenneth

Public Works.....a diverse department whose daily operations directly impacts the quality of Rosenberg's environment by making your City streets and public spaces clean, safe, attractive, and accessible.



Jessica Luna, Deborah Almazan, and Director Kenneth Jansky

Jansky monitors the contracts to ensure that the contractual operations are in accordance with existing agreements. In addition to those contracts, the Public Works administration office handles the annual Vehicle Replacement Program for all City divisions that utilize City vehicles and the City's street light system.

With 19 years of service to the City, **PATRICK PARMA**, leads the Streets and Drainage Division and its 15 employees. This division is primarily responsible for the maintenance of streets, alleys, drainage system and signage throughout the City. The City of Rosenberg has approximately 127 miles of streets and 45 miles of alleys. Streets and Drainage's major goals include the Annual Street Overlay Program, aggressive street sign and pavement marking replacement, ditch and culvert cleaning operations, the storm drain marking program and the alley maintenance program.

RODNEY WROBLISKI, Rosenberg's Chief Mechanic with 19 years of service, leads the Fleet Maintenance Division and its staff of four. The three mechanics along with Wrobliski have a combined total of 35 ASE certifications. The Fleet Maintenance Division is primarily responsible for providing internal support to all departments through vehicle and equipment maintenance activities. Rosenberg's fleet consists of 96 total vehicles, 52 mowers/light equipment, and 16 pieces of medium/heavy equipment. Along with maintaining the fleet of vehicles and equipment, they are also responsible for the maintenance of the City's fueling stations.

As the liaison for the Rosenberg Image Committee, Kenneth Jansky is in charge of the annual Spring Cleanup event. The Spring Cleanup event allows citizens to dispose of large items that would not be picked up by the regular solid waste service. The 2009 Spring Cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, May 2 at Brazos and Sunset Parks. Spring Cleanup details will be distributed during the month of April.

Since curbside recycling was discontinued, the Public Works Department is primarily responsible for maintenance of a recycling center. In May 2008, The Recycling Drop off Center, located at 3720 Airport Avenue, was opened to the public in an effort to promote recycling. The Recycling Drop off Center is a 'self-serve' site that allows citizens to drop off paper, plastics, aluminum items, and other recyclable items at their convenience.



Rodney Wrobliski & Pat Parma

The Public Works Department is dedicated to serving the community by maintaining the City's infrastructure and enhancing the quality of life for the citizens of Rosenberg.

A new tradition begins...

On November 4, Rosenberg Fire Chief **KATHY HUTCHENS** proudly introduced the newest members of the Rosenberg Fire Department to City Council and began a new tradition in the Department by performing an official badge pinning ceremony. The seven new Rosenberg firefighters included: **THOMAS BROWN**, who came to Rosenberg with 4.5 years of fire service experience at Travis County Emergency Service District No. 11 and the Richmond Fire Department. Thomas holds certifications as an Intermediate Firefighter, Fire and Arson Investigator, Fire Officer I, Fire Instructor, Intermediate Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), and Driver/Operator. He also holds certification in Basic Law Enforcement; **GARETT CRANEK** came to Rosenberg from the Richmond Fire Department with eight months experience. He is certified as a Basic Firefighter, Driver/Operator, and as an Intermediate EMT; **JASON JOHNS** has eight months experience with the Freeport Fire Department, and is certified as a Basic Firefighter, Driver/Operator, and EMT; **JASON KOSLER**, a three year member of the Rosenberg Volunteers, holds certification as a Basic Firefighter, Driver/Operator, EMT, and Fire Investigator; with three years experience with the Northwest Fire Department, **HECTOR PINA** is certified as a Basic Firefighter, Driver/Operator, and EMT; **JUSTIN RODGERS** has six months experience with the Houston Fire Department. He holds a Bachelor's Degree from Sam Houston State University in Huntsville and is also a Certified Horseshoer. His fire certifications include Basic Firefighter, Driver/Operator, and EMT; and **JUSTIN WHITE** has three years of fire experience with the Richmond Fire Department, and comes to Rosenberg certified as an Intermediate Firefighter, HazMat Technician, Driver/Operator, Fire Officer I, and as an Intermediate EMT. Following the introduction of the firefighters to City Council, Chief Hutchens performed the badge pinning ceremony. Badges were presented to the seven new firefighters who saluted their immediate superior and the Chief.



(Pictured L-R) Justin Rodgers, Thomas Brown, Hector Pina, Jason Kosler, Jason Johns, and Justin White. Not pictured: Garrett Cranek.

"The Fire Service is very rich in tradition. The badge signifies an important part of belonging to one particular organization and the rank achieved in that organization. We are starting a tradition by publicly acknowledging that these men are a part of the Rosenberg organization by presenting them with their badge and allowing a special person in their life to pin the badge on the uniform. The pinning of the Rosenberg Fire Department badge is symbolic of bringing family and organization together."

- Chief Kathy Hutchens



Gilbert Flores & Joey Reyna

Flores and Reyna earn certifications

Two members of the Utilities Department have received Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) operator certification licenses. **JOEY REYNA** has passed TCEQ testing to obtain a "B" Groundwater Treatment Operator license. TCEQ requires that individuals certified for a "B" Groundwater Treatment Operator license shall have a thorough knowledge of Water Standards, as well as a familiarity with proposed EPA rules and regulations. The Operator shall know well construction requirements and development procedures, causes of unstable water, and be able to diagnose and correct problems in groundwater treatment processes. The Operator shall also perform basic chemical laboratory analysis and be able to interpret results. **GILBERT FLORES** passed the examination for a Customer Service Inspector (CSI) license; a license required by the TCEQ to be recognized as capable of conducting a customer service inspection certification. In accordance with state law, a customer service inspection certificate is to be completed prior to the City providing water service to new construction, or on any existing service when the City has reason to believe that cross-connections or other contaminant hazards exists, or after any material improvement, correction, or addition to the water distribution facilities has occurred.

**Joy to
you this
Holiday
Season!**



IMPORTANT!

**City facilities will
be closed Thursday,
December 25 and
January 1, 2009.**

**THERE WILL BE
NO TRASH
COLLECTION
ON THOSE DATES.**

**Trash will be
collected on the
next regularly
scheduled
pickup day.**

**RECYCLING
IS THE RIGHT
THING TO DO.**

**Recycling Center
3720 Airport Ave.
Open 24/7**

**Information
832-595-3960**

SAVE THE DATE!

**Saturday,
February 7**

**TROUT FISHING
TOURNAMENT**

