

## 2004-2005 Council Retreat

The Council held a Goal Setting Budget Retreat in San Antonio all day Saturday and half a day Sunday, June 25 – 26, 2005. During the retreat, they received and discussed information about Street Conditions and Improvement Needs, Drainage and Flooding Issues, and Facilities and Capital Improvement Project Needs. They also received updates on the 2020 Comprehensive Plan, the fiscal position and debt capacity of the City, and the compensation plan for Public Safety personnel. Based on those discussions, they established the following City Council Goals for the upcoming 2005-2006 Budget:



- Implement three-year phased-in merit-pay compensation increase plan for Public Safety personnel to become and remain competitive in the market.
- Design a merit-pay system for all other personnel and implement in future budgets.
- Increase the streets maintenance budget to more closely track our repair needs.
- Continue improvements at the Industrial Park II to include a speculation building and telecommunications infrastructure.
- Establish a budget for building new sidewalks and repairing existing sidewalks.
- Discuss with the community the need for a civic center, what amenities it should have, and how it will be manned.
- Evaluate and finalize operating plan for the Technology Center, which may include build out of the second floor of the Library.
- Earn our citizens confidence, faith and trust by keeping them better informed about issues that affect them, by seeking their input into those issues, and by encouraging their participation.
- Provide monthly update information to newspapers, our website, in utility billing mailouts, and other media about activities of the City.
- Improve park and recreation activities for the youth.
- Determine appropriate amounts and timing to issue Bonds to
  - refinance the remaining balance on the 1996 bonds to save money,
  - purchase and convert the Bluebonnet Electric Co-Op building for use by the Municipal Court and EMS (to address emergency calls once SH 130 comes through),
  - purchase property needed for drainage purposes,
  - rehabilitate deteriorated streets, and
  - build a civic center.



The City and Council always try to “Buy Lockhart First”. The Council chose to hold the meeting elsewhere because any good meeting facilitator will tell you to hold meetings in new and different places to clear your mind and stimulate thought processes. The Council really wanted to focus on what the most important needs will be and how to address those needs for this next upcoming budget.

## Solar Program for Kids

Students in Lockhart will soon be learning about solar energy and all the benefits that come with it. As part of the Texas Solar for Schools Program, Lockhart ISD has chosen to install a one-kilowatt system at Bluebonnet Elementary that will generate photovoltaic-or solar electric power. This power will be used in the program to educate students about renewable energy and help the environment by reducing the use of nonrenewable resources such as coal, gas and oil as well as show alternatives to the traditional energy source which contributes to your household utility bill.

Lockhart teachers will attend a workshop in late summer to prepare for the introduction of the program into the school’s curriculum. The program will be Web-based which will enable school campuses throughout Lockhart ISD to bring the information into their classrooms.

The Texas Solar for Schools Program is provided through the Texas State Energy Conservation Office and the U.S. Department of Energy and 50% of the project costs are recovered by Exxon Oil Overcharge dollars. The City of Lockhart and LCRA provided additional funds for the project installation at the Bluebonnet Elementary campus.

## Visit to China

In January 2005 a delegation of officials and staff from the City of Shangyu, China visited Lockhart. The visit was founded on possible economic development and forming friendly relations between the 2 cities. The delegation wanted to tour Lockhart and the surrounding areas in an effort to understand and experience our culture first hand. Various tours were arranged of Lockhart, the Luling Foundation Farm, San Antonio, and Austin to display culture and way of life, the entire time working towards the goals of development and friendly relations.

The visit proved a success on many levels, a Friendly Relations Trade Agreement was signed, various possible business ventures were discussed, and the visitors extended a formal invitation to the City of Lockhart to travel to Shangyu, China and further the relationship and business potentials.

In June 2005, a delegation of Lockhart City officials, staff, and local business leaders traveled to China as a return visit. While in China, the delegation was shown tours pertaining to local culture-similar to the tours the Shangyu delegation experienced while in Lockhart. Also, there were continued discussions regarding possible economic development including a Chinese Trade Center that would potentially be located in Lockhart and appointments to discuss specific business opportunities between Lockhart and Chinese companies.

The City of Lockhart has received numerous requests to visit Lockhart from various Shangyu officials, staff, business leaders, and Beijing company principals. The City of Lockhart is looking forward to their visits and the opportunity to build on the economic development foundation that has been successfully created.

### Summertime in the Park

When school is out and the heat is rising, Lockhart City Parks are in full force. Children and adults of all ages were seen heading out to the park to enjoy a vast assortment of summer activities this past summer season.

The City Pool was open to everyone from 12 p.m. – 8 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday and was utilized



for special party events in the evenings. Although the City Pool is now closed for the fall and winter seasons, it will reopen next

summer for you and your family's pleasure. We look forward to seeing you there!

The 4<sup>th</sup> of July was celebrated in style at the park where the Lockhart Chamber of Commerce and the City of Lockhart hosted an entertaining and impressive annual fireworks show. Folks gathered from all over to sit under the stars with their loved ones and enjoy the show. While many made their way to the park for the event, several families were able to see the display from their very own backyards.

Movies in the Park were held this year for the first time. Time Warner Cable and the City of Lockhart partnered to provide the community with 2 different movie showings at no cost to the public. The City looks forward to the opportunity of providing for the event next year and making the safe enjoyable family activity a tradition. Sponge Bob was shown August 6<sup>th</sup> and Shark Tale will be shown September 10<sup>th</sup>.

### Lockhart Technology Center

Operating as a division of the Library, let's not forget the Technology Center located at 901 Bois D' Arc. This is a wonderful resource for the community in work skill training. They offer computer software training on Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access, Windows, Publisher, Photoshop, and the Internet/Email. They also will soon be offering a Basic Computer Literacy class. The classes are only \$5 per class for Lockhart residents and \$25 for all others as long as you have a library card.

### School Starts Soon!!

With school starting soon, the Lockhart Police Department wanted to remind everyone – students, teachers, parents, and others, about speeding and seatbelt use around schools and in residential areas. Wear your seatbelt when driving. It's a fact that it saves lives. Remember that children are everywhere, and can dart in front of traffic before you can react. So, wear your seatbelt, watch your speed, and keep an eye out for the kids and the school zones.

### Excellence at the Library



Bertha Martinez started with the City in 1989 as a Library Aide. She was promoted to a Library Assistant in 1994. In 1999, she was promoted to Program and Outreach Coordinator. After a series of promotions and serving as the Interim Director of Library Services for the past 2 years, Bertha was promoted to the Director of Library Services in November 2004. As the Director, Bertha has successfully motivated and organized

the department into a wonderful resource for our community.

Library activities change with the needs of its patrons. With school out, the Library hosted several events for children such as a summer reading program, which accommodated over 250 students, and a weekly special guest to entertain the children. During the school year, a story time program was implemented to entertain and educate children not enrolled in school. This past summer a celebration was held to acknowledge the Library's 105 consecutive years in operation.

We look forward to future library events and thank Bertha for all her hard work.

### High Achievements at Lockhart Municipal Court

Bonnie Townsend recently completed the requirements of the Texas Municipal Court Clerk Level III Certification. The Municipal Court Clerk Certification Program was established to encourage professional development and educational growth. The program consists of 3 different certifications, each addressing specific aspects of municipal court clerk and court administration duties.

Bonnie was hired in September 2002 as the Lockhart Municipal Administrator and had no Court Clerk Certifications at that time. Since then, Bonnie has spent her own free time diligently working towards achieving the certifications. In just 3 short years, Bonnie has completed the requirements to be awarded not only a Level I and Level II Court Clerk Certification, but she has earned all 3 certifications that are available. Only a handful of Court Administrators in Texas hold a Level III Certification and we are fortunate to have Bonnie at our court.



**Convenience Pay-The Lockhart Municipal Court will soon be accepting payments made by credit card via the internet!!!**

### Envision Central Texas



Mayor Pro-Tem Frank Estrada was recently elected as a board member of Envision Central Texas (ECT). Mayor Pro-Tem Estrada has represented the City of Lockhart by serving as a councilmember from 1982 to the present and will now further represent the City on the board of ECT. Congratulations!