



## CITY HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

In observation of the following holidays, all City offices will be closed:

- November 11—Veteran’s Day
- November 24—Thanksgiving Day
- November 25—Day After Thanksgiving
- December 23—Christmas Eve Observed
- December 26—Christmas Day Observed

The City Council will hold its regular meetings on:

- November 1
- November 15
- December 6
- December 20

The public is welcome and encouraged to attend. Please see the City Secretary for a detailed agenda listing items to be discussed during each meeting.

### Officer Completes Training

Charles L. Bethel, Lieutenant of the Lockhart Police Department, recently graduated from the Leadership Command College of the Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas. The program, taught by a consortium of universities throughout Texas, 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.

This program is one of many offered by the Bill Blackwood Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas. The Institute, known as “LEMIT”, has been training law enforcement managers and executives since its inception in 1987. No tax monies are necessary to support LEMIT, which is funded by a surcharge on criminal court costs. Between one and two thousand Texas law enforcement personnel benefit from LEMIT training each year.

Congratulations, Lieutenant Bethel!!!

### New Fire Equipment

The Fire Department will accept delivery of a new Light-Duty Rescue Truck in mid-November. The new truck will be equipped for assistance inside the city and will enable firefighters to transport more equipment to the scene of a large fire, medical emergency, rescue, hazardous-materials and/or weapons of mass destruction type incident.

## MAYOR’S MESSAGE TO THE COMMUNITY

### Budget Brief



The majority of the city council passed the 2006 City of Lockhart budget in September 2005. The budget vote was the culmination of over five hundred hours of close examination of every department and review of the budget in great detail.

The City of Lockhart is facing serious financial hardship if strict corrective measures are not taken now. The City has four main funds: water, wastewater, electric and general. According to standard municipal accounting practices, a fund balance should never fall below 20 percent of operating expenses. This fund balance or savings is a cash reserve that is to remain untouched and on hand for emergency situations such as a catastrophic weather event. In the past, the City has routinely spent these savings on programs and city departments’ expenses. This practice has led the city into a position of dependence on these fund balances, and has put some of the fund balances well below the minimum required to remain fiscally healthy. In an act of fiscal responsibility, the city council determined that corrective measures had to be put in place before the City’s savings were depleted.

In order to take corrective measures to ensure the viability of the budget, a precise evaluation of every city department was taken. Surveys of staffing levels, crime rates and comparisons to communities of comparable size to Lockhart were compiled. After careful and thoughtful study, it was determined that the police department was overstaffed by four to five officer positions. As a result, the police department was reduced by four positions.

We, the city council, understand that reductions in force are difficult. This decision was not made easily, or lightly. We share your concerns about the safety of Lockhart citizens. **Despite the reduction to the police force, the safety of our community remains intact. At no time will a citizen’s call to police go unanswered.**

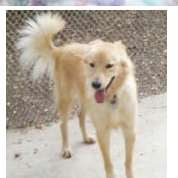
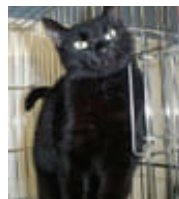
The City has, in the past, been living beyond its means. The city council will continue to do the best job possible and make tough, but necessary, decisions. We appreciate your support during this difficult time and encourage you to continue participate in the government process.

*Mayor James “Jimmy” Bertram*



## Adopt a pet

Contact the Lockhart Animal Shelter at (512) 376-3336.



## 2005 Brown Santa Toy Drive



Lockhart firefighters will join forces with the Caldwell County Sheriff’s Department in mid-December to provide needy families with a little “holiday cheer” during the annual Brown Santa Toy Drive. Donations of new toys and/or cash will be accepted. Question concerning donations should be directed to the Sheriff’s Department at (512) 398-6777. The downtown City fire station will serve as a collection point for new toys only.

## Response to the Hurricanes

Recently, two major hurricanes traveled through the Gulf of Mexico impacting thousands of people. When a natural disaster of this proportion occurs, it overwhelms the local emergency responders. Responders from other areas are called upon to assist.

Texas Department of State Health Services put out a request for all available ambulances and personnel to be placed on standby prior to Katrina's landfall in Louisiana. Lockhart EMS was later requested to provide assistance in Austin. One ambulance and two personnel spent a total of six days assisting at the Austin Convention Center. The expenses of EMS assisting the hurricane evacuees will be reimbursed to the City by FEMA.



During the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Lockhart Police Department officers provided security at St. David's Hospital Systems in Austin and in San Antonio at Kelly USA where several thousand evacuees from New Orleans are housed. This was done on their scheduled days off.

During Hurricane Rita, Fire Chief Jerry Doyle, who also serves as the City's Emergency Operation Coordinator, assisted Caldwell County with operating the local Emergency Operation Center and answered calls from numerous local churches regarding providing shelter to several hundred evacuees. All department heads and city management attended briefings held through out the week and all staff was placed on standby until it was apparent that Rita would not directly affect our area.

Following Hurricane Rita, the Lockhart Fire Department received a request for assistance from the Texas Forest Service. Brandon Kitchens, Clint Browning, Chance Bishop, and Derek Sexton were deployed to Vidor, Texas. Vidor is approximately 30 miles east of Beaumont on IH-10. The crew traveled the 250 miles to Vidor to provide hurricane relief assistance such as clearing of trees, removing power lines, searching houses for hurricane victims, and responding to the normal types of calls they get here in Lockhart such as fires, medical assists, motor vehicle accidents, gas leaks, etc. After 6 long days and responding to over 100 emergency calls, the crew returned to Lockhart. Shortly after their return, a second hurricane relief

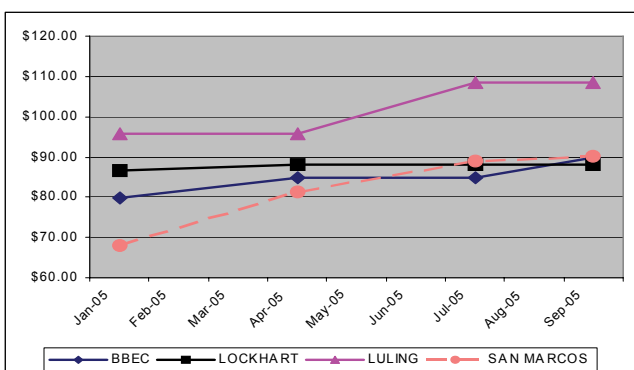


crew composed of Terry Wright, Josh Wallace, Brandon Kitchens, and Clint Browning were deployed back to the Vidor area for a week long stay. The City will be reimbursed by FEMA for all expenses incurred for the relief efforts.

## Rate Comparison

Below is a comparison of the electric rates of Lockhart and surrounding utility providers. As the data shows, Lockhart rates are well in line with the average rate cost.

	BBEC	LOCKHART	LULING	SAN MARCOS
01/05/05	\$79.89	\$86.55	\$95.90	\$68.01
04/05/05	\$84.89	\$88.15	\$95.90	\$81.26
07/15/05	\$84.89	\$88.15	\$108.50	\$88.88
09/09/05	\$89.89	\$88.15	\$108.50	\$90.05



## Community Development

There is a great deal of economic activity in Lockhart including a recent visit from international visitors, plans for Serta Mattress Factory move to our community, and building a new tortilla factory.

The City of Lockhart recently hosted a business prospect from Beijing Sheng'an Building Materials Industrial Co. Ltd. that followed a successful meeting during the delegation trip to China. The company came to Lockhart interested in investing in a building materials factory that would employ 25 in the initial phase.



Many businesses, citizens, state and city staff worked long hours to welcome them to the community, show them the benefits of doing business in Lockhart and Texas, and to introduce them to local citizens. The City thanks everyone that contributed to and hosted our guests. And special thanks to Sandra Mauldin and Julie Bowermon for all their hard work.

Since the announcement of the Beijing Sheng'an Building Materials Industrial Co. Ltd. visit, rumors have spread regarding a dinner held in San Marcos, Texas. In appreciation, the visiting company hosted a dinner at Palmer's Restaurant in San Marcos in which numerous City Officials, City staff and private companies/citizens were invited. Again, this was an event organized by Beijing Sheng'an Building Materials Co. Ltd. and all expenses were borne by them.

Rumors of **\$30,000** of City funds being used to fund an economic trip to China have been circulating across town. In June 2005, the City did **partially** fund a delegation that visited China. The delegation was a combination of City Officials, City staff, a translator, and private companies/individuals from the community. City funds were used for the travel expenses of the officials, staff, and translator. Sponsors (GBRA, LEDC, & Time Warner Cable) were secured to assist in expenses borne by the City. The result was a total cost of approximately **\$10,500**—far less than the alleged \$30,000. The private companies/individuals were responsible for their own traveling expenses totaling approximately **\$12,500**. **All members** of the delegation covered the expense of their own: passport, passport photo, and visa for a total of **\$278** per person along with any incidental expenses they may have incurred. Regardless of what the "word on the street" may be, the economic development trip did not cost the City \$30,000.

Serta Mattress Factory and a team of architects and engineers continue to finalize plans as they orchestrate the relocation of the plant from Austin to Lockhart. Their plans include details such as coordinating construction completions and physically moving large heavy equipment in a short amount of time to reduce moving time and manage production demands.

Margarita's Tortilla Factory is finalizing the purchase of land in the Lockhart Industrial Park II to relocate and expand their business to Lockhart. Margarita's will employ 8 people.

Let's welcome these companies by promoting our high quality community as we recruit new jobs and display positive attitudes to investors and developers.

**As of June 1, 2005, the City Utility Billing Department no longer issues disconnection notification tags (DNT) to habitually late customers. This change in policy was a result in the growing amount of abuse to the DNT system and the lack of manpower to handle the growing number of tags.**

**The Utility Billing Department distributes bills in 2 cycles: the 5th and 20th of every month.**

**Due dates (dependent on the cycle) are the 25th and 10th of every month.**

**Disconnection of service for non-payment occurs 5 days after the due date.**

**Remember to pay your utility bill before heading out of town for the holidays to avoid a disconnection.**