



Lockhart
TEXAS

Courting PROGRESS

2019 Annual Report

COURTING PROGRESS

FROM THE CITY MANAGER

The title of the cover of this annual report is no accident: We are indeed courting progress here in Lockhart.



fingerprint. They are truly unique to Lockhart.

The tradition and history have a direct relationship with the growth and evolution of Lockhart. While few residents here would challenge the notion that Lockhart continues to be widely known as a place to come enjoy top-notch barbecue, many others recognize it for its vibrant, picturesque downtown that includes historic buildings with distinctive architecture. That identity is attracting new businesses and industries to the city and, in turn, leading more people to call the area their home.

Highlights of 2019 include significant improvements to infrastructure, the creation of a new citizen advisory board, bringing back the Lockhart Grand Prix kart race, the grand opening of new manufacturers that bring well-paying jobs to our community, new housing options, and a transition to a new brand that represents Lockhart's evolving identity.

The rebranding includes a new logo that adorns the cover. It is a fresh look to represent Lockhart while also paying homage to its storied heritage. The current Caldwell County Courthouse, which is represented in the city's logo, punctuates the center of the downtown Lockhart square and has since its construction in 1894. Historians say that back then, a county courthouse served as a potent symbol of the civic, social and economic viability of a county, evoking a sense of pride for those who resided near it. Today, the courthouse and the distinctive architecture of the surrounding downtown buildings can be likened to a

Our employees and volunteers, along with our City Council, are dedicated to ensuring Lockhart continues to improve and evolve. This 2019 annual report is a way for our many city departments to highlight how they help make Lockhart a better place to live and increase awareness of how their work contributed to progress seen during the past year. It is an honor and a pleasure to serve the Lockhart community, and I remain grateful for the opportunity.

Sincerely,

Steve Lewis
City Manager

CITY COUNCIL



FRONT ROW (l-r): Mayor Pro-Tem Angie Gonzales-Sanchez, Mayor Lew White, District 3 Councilmember Kara McGregor.

BACK ROW (l-r): Councilmember At-Large Brad Westmoreland, District 1 Councilmember Juan Mendoza, District 2 Councilmember David Bryant, District 4 Councilmember Jeffry Michelson.

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ADMINISTRATION



Administrative highlights included the successful negotiation of an agreement with P1 Promotions to bring kart racing back to Lockhart in May 2020.

CITY MANAGER

- Recruited and hired a new Economic Development Director, Finance Director, and the city's first-ever public information officer.
- The City Manager's office staffed the City Council efforts to hire a new city attorney.
- Staff prepared a fund balance stabilization and excess of reserves policy.
- Coordinated with the District Attorney and City of Luling officials to develop and adopt a game room ordinance.
- Developed a new policy and procedures for the disposal of city surplus personal property.
- Negotiated an agreement with P1 Promotions for the kart races to be held in May 2020.
- Addressed the contract vacancy created following the retirement of the longtime city engineer with TRC Solutions.
- Entered into an agreement with the Polonia Water Supply Corporation to transfer a portion of its service area northwest of Lockhart into the City's service area. This will allow the City to service and stimulate future development in that area.

CIVIL SERVICE

- The Lockhart Police & Fire Civil Service Commission convened two times in 2019 and addressed promotional position requirements, promotional exam source list material, and appointing a second psychologist to improve the hiring process.
- Four fire entry level exams and three police entry level exams were held in an effort to fill vacancies in the two departments.

CITY SECRETARY

- Approximately 8,000 large plans were scanned into Laserfiche to facilitate record retrieval.
- In addition to keeping City Channel 10, marquee sign and Council A/V equipment updated, duties included training the city's new public information officer to execute the recording and broadcasting of city council meetings.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

- Issued regular press releases to raise community awareness on a number of events, services and subjects. Press releases were distributed through e-mail, our website and Facebook and often published in the Lockhart Post-Register.
- Increased the City's visibility on Facebook, posting regularly and keeping the community informed on a variety of topics.

The number of people following the city's Facebook page increased by more than 600. The page now has 2,356 likes, representing an increase of more than 500 since September.

- The new Public Information Officer provided the city with extra manpower during breaking news events involving investigations by the Lockhart Police Department.

CITY COUNCIL



Former Councilmember John Castillo holds a plaque commemorating his service on the Lockhart City Council. Members of the Lockhart City Council pictured with Castillo are, from left, Brad Westmoreland, Angie Gonzales-Sanchez, Juan Mendoza, Kara McGregor, Jeffry Michelson and David Bryant.

- Council participated in a half-day planning session to develop city-wide goals and strategies for the next two years. These goals, which focused on enhancing economic development, efficiency, technology, quality of life and public safety, were adopted by council resolution.
- Council adopted a new city logo to accurately reflect Lockhart's traditions, identity and heritage with a clean, simple, easy-to-identify design and brand-suite guidelines that standardize how the logo is used on communications and infrastructure as well as by other entities.
- Appointed a new City Attorney.
- Revised Fire Department Step Pay Plan to enhance recruitment and retention. The Po-

lice pay step plan was increased by 3% and the Fire pay step plan was increased by 7%.

- Adopted an interlocal cooperation agreement with Caldwell County for enforcement of subdivision regulations in Lockhart's extraterritorial jurisdiction.
- Adopted new regulations regarding downtown sidewalk obstructions.
- Approved a consent agreement for the Clear Fork Ranch Municipal Utility District.
- Approved the creation of the Hotel Occupancy Tax advisory board, which will process requests for special event funding and present recommendations to the Lockhart City Council for approval.

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Visionary Fiber Technologies held its ribbon cutting in November, officially opening its global headquarters.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Announced the relocation of IT startup Promogo from Austin in September. Promogo is an IT startup company focused on creating data from promotional activities for the consumer package goods industry.
- Budgeted \$50,000 towards a facade and life safety matching grant program for building owners in the central commercial district of Lockhart. Building owners and businesses through the Business Improvement and Growth (BIG) Grant program can receive assistance for improvements like new awnings, fire suppression systems, planters and store fronts.
- Turner Company, announced in 2018, officially opened on SH 142 just outside city limits. The company, which specializes in manufacturing pre-cast concrete structures that include septic tanks, grease traps, storm cellars, and manholes, built its \$3 million facility on 31 acres and expects to hire 100 within the first five years.
- Visionary Fiber Technologies in November held its ribbon cutting ceremony, officially opening its global headquarters. According to conservative estimates, the net fiscal benefit of VFT's new facility during its 10-year agreement with the Lockhart Economic Development Corporation will provide an estimated \$527,948 to the City of Lockhart, \$491,823 to Caldwell County, and \$318,382 to the Lockhart Independent School District.

PLANNING

- The Historical Preservation Commission considered 21 Certificate for Alteration applications, and held a Tax Credit and Abatement workshop.
- The Zoning Board of Adjustments considered three Zoning Variance and two Special Exception applications.
- The Planning and Zoning Commission considered 14 Specific Use Permit applications, 10 Zoning Map Change applications, one Zoning Text Amendment, five Subdivision Plats, and one Subdivision Variance. Seven Subdivision Minor Plats were approved administratively.
- The City Council considered 10 Zoning Map Change applications, one Zoning Text Amendment, one Appeal of a Planning and Zoning Commission approval of a Specific Use Permit application, and one Appeal of a Planning and Zoning Commission denial of a Specific Use Permit application.
- The City Council approved the Clearfork Ranch MUD Agreement, the Maple Street Extension Agreement, the Reynolds Street Access Easement, a TxDOT Grant Resolution for the 100 Block of East San Antonio Street, a new Engineering Review Fee Resolution, and an Ordinance providing Standards for Sidewalk Obstructions in the CCB



The Wayfinding Committee is working on a report recommending a strategy supporting vehicular and pedestrian navigation around Lockhart.

zoning district.

- The City Council accepted two Impact Fee Semi-Annual Reports from the Impact Fee Advisory Committee.
- The Wayfinding Committee met three times. The committee's final product is expected to be a report recommending locations and guidelines for various types of wayfinding signs, potentially including priorities in implementation and a funding strategy.
- The Local Update of Census Addresses, and the Boundary and Annexation Survey, were completed for the U. S. Census Bureau in anticipation of the 2020 National Census.

BUILDING INSPECTION AND CODE ENFORCEMENT

- The Construction Board of Appeals took action on 18 abandoned and/or unsafe structures.
 - » Ten structures were condemned.
 - » Seven structures were approved for rehabilitation.
 - » One structure was tabled for additional consideration.
- The following major projects were completed in 2019:
 - » Lockhart Fuel Express, located at 2111 W. San Antonio Street.
 - » The Stanton, located at 2115 Windsor Blvd.
 - » Visionary Fiber Technology, located at 1400 Blackjack Street.
- » Lockhart Fire Station No. 2, located at 1911 Borchert Dr.
- Incode permitting and inspection software to help with tracking permits and inspections was implemented in late November, helping staff track the progress of the review of the permit and the stage of construction/inspection status after the permit is issued. Eventually, the permittee will also be able to log in and check up on inspection status.
- Plan review for a major remodel of Lockhart's H-E-B grocery store is underway, with construction slated to begin in early 2020.

LIBRARY SERVICES



Candles were held high as the Yule Log was lit for the 30th straight year at the Dickens Christmas celebration.

- Converted to the new Biblionix Apollo circulation system designed to improve efficiency and ease-of-use for both library patrons and staff. The system allows patrons to see an item's availability from home and to remotely renew items they've checked out. It also helps staff by sending courtesy reminders, streamlining notice processing and automatically collecting overdue fines.
- Twenty-five mobile hotspots are now catalogued and currently circulating. There is currently a waiting list for the popular new service.
- The Library successfully hosted its 30th annual Dickens Christmas celebration.



INTERNAL SUPPORT SERVICES

FINANCE AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- AvenuSights (formally known as Muni-Services) was contracted to perform two audits of hotels located within the City of Lockhart. This audit resulted in additional revenues from Hotel Occupancy Taxes that were not received from a prior reporting period. The audits also helped local establishments with their reporting duties to the City and to the State. AvenuSights is continuing to work on the discovery phase of their contract, to identify short-term rental properties within the city limits of Lockhart.
- Received a “clean audit opinion” from city’s external financial auditor and noted an increase of \$206,000 in the combined fund balance.
- Desktop and laptop computers throughout city offices were replaced.
- Completed a technology assessment resulting in a complete plan to restructure the city’s IT infrastructure, including the server room at City Hall and the police department.
- The Finance Department solicited Requests for Proposal that resulted in new vendors for the City of Lockhart. The new depository bank for the City is First Lockhart National Bank and the new IT management company is Blue Layer Innovated Technologies.
- Rate negotiations with American Electric Power (AEP) resulted in future savings in power purchases.
- A new adopted budget document was created and published, which provides additional details such as a City Manager’s Letter to Council; a budget calendar; Ordinances approving the Tax Rate and the Budget; City Council Goals; Statement of Net Position; Debt Summary; Requested Capital and Personnel; City of Lockhart Investment Policy; and Stabilization and Excess of Reserves Policy.

UTILITY CUSTOMER SERVICES

- Completed installation of Flex Net meters, which provide staff with the ability to read residential meters from City Hall. The meters, which have been installed on 99 percent of residences in Lockhart’s service area, reduce staff time in the field and allow customers to access real-time data.
- An option for utilities customers to go paperless was introduced in November. A total of 121 customers have chosen to “go green” since the option’s inception.



PUBLIC SAFETY AND JUSTICE



Firefighters spread awareness during National Fire Prevention Week, visiting campuses throughout the Lockhart Independent School District.

FIRE

- Construction of the new Fire Station No. 2 at 1911 Borchert Dr. was completed in November. The fire station is approximately 2,600 sq. ft. and will house fire administration, four firefighters and three apparatus when fully staffed.
- A new fire apparatus was received in January. The vehicle is a mini-pumper and is a front line apparatus for medical calls, vehicle fires, structure fires, motor vehicle accidents (MVA) and other emergencies.
- Participated in the development of the Caldwell County Hazard Mitigation Plan 2020 along with several other local jurisdictions. The focus of the plan is to protect people and structures and to minimize the cost of disaster response and recovery from known hazards by identifying and implementing cost-effective hazard mitigation actions.
- A \$20,000 Texas A&M Forest Service Equipment grant led to the acquisition of new battery-powered extrication tools, rescue saws and a thermal imaging camera.
- The department was active in community risk reduction efforts:

Continued on Page 9

FIRE (Continued from Page 8)

- » 50 public assistance events that include smoke detector installs, motorist assists, car seat installation and unlocking vehicles
- » Delivered fire safety messages to 4,138 students and adults
- » Attended 67 public events representing Lockhart Fire Rescue including neighborhood gatherings, community events, LISD events, first responder recognition and city-wide events
- » Pre-fire plans of commercial buildings in Lockhart totaled 145. These plans assist firefighters awareness with the layout and any associated hazards with the building, people or processes in the event they respond to a call at that facility.
- » Conducted 92 fire inspections of existing commercial buildings in Lockhart, including nursing and assisted living facilities, day cares, restaurants and changes in certificates of occupancy.

EMS (Administered by the Ascension Seton Family of Hospitals)

- Instituted a supply management system that reduced cost by 3 percent.
- Purchased a LUCAS Chest Compression System, a device that enhances the paramedics' ability to perform effective and safe CPR on cardiac arrest patients.
- Implemented a new two-way radio system essential to keeping police, firefighters, EMS and civilians safe in dangerous situations while maintaining optimal public safety and emergency response reliability.
- Developed an ambulance rotation schedule between the City, Caldwell County and Seton.



The LUCAS Chest Compression System helps paramedics perform effective and safe CPR on patients.

MUNICIPAL COURT

- Eighty-eight cases were closed by defendants performing community service. The court mainly uses the Animal Shelter or the food bank for defendants to complete community service hours. Defendants residing in Austin or San Marcos also complete service hours at Goodwill. Community service hours are earned at a rate of 8 hours per \$100 owed.
- Truancy cases are documented by school year. For the current school year (2019-2020), 54 truancy cases have been processed for the first semester, along with 111 parent-contributing-to-non-attendance cases. For the previous school year, 2018-2019, the school had filed a total of 127 truancy cases, along with 216 parent-contributing-to-non-attendance cases.

POLICE



Lockhart police officers spent quality time enjoying food and fellowship with their neighbors in October at National Night Out.

- The Lockhart Police Department continued its mission and commitment to enhance accountability, openness and transparency by upgrading its body-worn cameras to third-generation models.
- To increase operational supervision and prepare for future succession, an additional supervisory position with a lieutenant ranking was created.
- The department implemented its new Response to Resistance Policy, which recognizes that use of force in response to resistance by law enforcement requires constant evaluation, and how officers respond to resistance is a serious responsibility. The purpose of the policy is to provide officers with objective guidelines on what constitutes a reasonable response to resistance.
- Jesse Bell and Paul Ybarra were promoted to Lieutenant, and Jacob Garza and Austin Hale were promoted to Sergeant.
- LPD's community outreach efforts continued:
 - » The Chief's forum was held quarterly;
 - » SALT (Seniors and Law Enforcement Together) meetings were held once a month;
 - » The Caldwell County Family Violence Task Force meeting was held once a month;
 - » Coffee with Cops outreach was held at La Ideal Bakery in downtown Lockhart;
 - » The department organized and participated in another successful city-wide National Night Out Event in October.
- Worked with the Lockhart Independent School District to enhance safety and security on all campuses in the district, providing LISD with two uniformed School Resource Officers and participating in the LISD Safety Task Force, which includes state and county law enforcement agencies as well as fire and emergency services.
- The department continued its support of the Lockhart Police Association's Operation Blue Santa, serving 300 area children and their families. The program was created to help bring holiday happiness to children and their families throughout Lockhart, bringing hope and joy to families that struggle to make ends meet.

PUBLIC WORKS



A project to complete a trail system at Lockhart City Park will continue after Lockhart received a \$200,000 grant in 2019.

AIRPORT

- Staff resumed mowing duties at the Municipal Airport, improving the maintenance schedule and reducing the damages that were occurring to runway lights.
- The Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) lights used for landing approaches were recalibrated.

ANIMAL SHELTER

- No animals were euthanized due to lack of space.
- The animal shelter received approximately \$14,500 in donations in 2019. The funding helped with improvements that include a new security fence, new gravel for the outdoor kennels and repairs to the indoor kennels.
- New security cameras were also among the improvements made in 2019.
- Last year, 99 different volunteers helped out at the shelter. Those volunteers logged a total of approximately 4,700 hours in 2019.



Donations to the animal shelter helped with projects such as the installation of a new security fence.

CEMETERY

- Renewed the mowing and trimming contract with Maintenance Management out of San Marcos.

PARKS

- Contracted installation of four new play-scapes and nine shade structures in parks throughout the city.
- New paving has taken place on City Park Road and the parking lot of the swimming pool.
- Hosted several events in City Park: Chisholm Trail Roundup, Hill Country Cook-Off, Welcome Spring Day, Kid Fish, Circuses, Fire-work Extravaganza and Movies in the Park.



A friendly alien invites Nueces Park playground patrons to try a maze at the park's new playscape.

PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATION

- Received a grant for St. David's Foundation for "Parks with Purposes" in the amount of \$200,000 for continuation of concrete trails to be installed in the City Park.
- Continued to work with TCEQ, Plum Creek Water Shed Coordinator and Nueces River Authority after receiving a three-year nonpoint source pollution grant in 2018. This year, staff established best management practices, created grow zones along the Town Branch Creek to promote a healthy riparian function, and aided in the design for rain garden construction at City Park.
- Awarded Community Development Block Grant from the Texas Department of Agriculture relating to improving water infrastructure in the amount of \$300,000. These funds will be used to increase the capacity of treated water distributed to the town from the water plant by installing new 18-inch transmission mains.
- Volunteers helped keep Lockhart clean once again on Nov. 9 at the latest installment of Keep Lockhart Beautiful.
- Received a Routine Airport Maintenance Grant from TxDOT for a 50 percent reimbursement on the purchase of a fuel terminal for the Lockhart Airport. The work is slated to begin in 2020.
- Applied for a grant from Texas Parks and Wildlife for trail lighting improvements at City Park.
- Adopted an updated Drought Contingency Plan and Water Conservation Plan in compliance with TCEQ and TWDB regulations.

STREETS AND DRAINAGE

- Completed the 2019 Street Improvement Plan, which included paving portions of Lion Country Drive, Center Street, and Trinity Street.
- City staff has worked to repair major base failures on Cibilo Street between Hackberry Street and Center Street.
- Drainage improvements were made by pouring concrete channels at Stueve Lane/West San Antonio Street and Scheh Street/City Park. Since the channels were constructed major drainage improvements have been observed.

UTILITIES

ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION

- Replaced an underground high voltage line that feeds First Lockhart National Bank on the west side of the square.
- Completed a capital project to replace poles and high voltage lines on South Main Street from West Prairie Lea Street to Bee Street.
- The department is working with the LCRA to make improvements to the Lockhart Substation that will improve reliability.
- Conducted electric meter accuracy audit/evaluation for all non-residential customers. Six meters with registration errors from 33-75 percent were identified, which is projected to lead to approximately \$200,000 in unbudgeted revenues.

WATER SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION



Contractors have begun work on the base of the new 500,000-gallon elevated water storage tank at FM 2001 and SH 130.

- Construction of the new 500,000-gallon elevated water storage tank started at FM 2001 and SH 130. Completion on the elevated tank is scheduled for October 2020.
- Staff installed over 4,500 feet of new 12" water main along FM 1322, improving service to residents in the southern portion of the city.
- Contractors installed 6,800 feet of 18-inch water main along Cesar Chavez Blvd. north of SH 130.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT

- The Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority and staff worked together to update the 5-year wastewater treatment plant permits and seek approval from the Texas Commission for Environmental Quality.

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- Randy Jenkins (Fire Chief) was recognized as 2019 Firefighter of the Year for Caldwell County by Lockhart Post-Register.
- Randy Williams (Captain), Adrian Almendarez (Captain), Ryan Sheedy (Firefighter), and Allan Holmes (Firefighter) were recognized by the Lockhart City Council, along with Lockhart EMS and Lockhart 9-1-1 Dispatch, for a CPR save.
- Detective David Martinez was awarded a Life Saving Award by the Lockhart Police Department for conducting the Heimlich Maneuver on a two-year child and dislodging food from child's throat.
- TCEQ Drinking Water Special Function has once again recognized the City of Lockhart as a "SUPERIOR" Water System.
- For the second year in a row the City of Lockhart has received the Water Fluoridation Quality Award from the Texas Department of State Health Services recognizing the City excellence in reporting and monitoring. Only 55 public water systems in Texas receive this award last year.
- Jesse Ramirez received his Certified Pool Operator certification.
- Lorenzo Salinas received his Wastewater Collection Operator Class I certification.
- Jimmy Bowen, John Handley, and Edwin Mena-Torres has all successfully upgraded their certifications this year and achieved Wastewater Collection Operator Class II certifications.
- City Secretary Connie Constancio is a Texas Registered Municipal Clerk and is currently working on 5th recertification, a five-year process that she began in 2017.
- Robert Eggiman was promoted to Controller. and earned the designation of Certified Government Financial Officer (CGFO) from the Governmental Finance Officers' Association.
- Kevin Waller has received his certification in Local Governmental Program Procedures from the Texas Department of Transportation.
- Jim Jewell, Director of Emergency Medical Services for City of Lockhart/Caldwell County, was nominated to serve a two-year term on the Capital Area Trauma Regional Advisory Council (CATRAC), giving the area higher visibility on that board.