

City tax, sewer rates to be discussed

Talk cable next Tuesday

Representatives of Eagle Lake Cable TV will be at the City Council meeting next week to talk with the council and any interested citizens about cable service.

The meeting is at 7:30 p.m. in council chambers of the municipal building. Anyone may attend and listen or ask questions and make comments about their cable television service.

During an impromptu discussion last week, city manager Bob Klockman expressed the "state of the city", and briefly touched upon several items for consideration during the month of September.

First of all, street paving began two weeks ago and is proceeding nicely, although the company doing the job has experienced some problems. They should, however, finish up by next week," he said. Contractors are Schwabe and Mikes of Shiner, Texas.

The cost of the work to be done is estimated to be \$50,000, to cover sealing Pendleton, Lake, Westmoreland, Milan and McCarty streets; overlay Stockbridge, C and Phillips streets; and base and overlay Crain, Cat Spring, Chapman and A streets. The parking lot behind the Post Office building has also been resurfaced.

The railroad is also fixing some of the crossings in the city. They repair railway crossings on highways, and then the highway department reimburses them," said Klockman. Workers were seen repairing the railroad crossing at North McCarty and Post Office streets last week.

The city also plans to adopt a tax rate sometime during September, ac-

ording to Mayor Elmer Struss. "Total property values were \$26 million last year, but this year values have increased to about \$46 million, and the tax roll is still not final," Klockman said.

Traditionally, properties in the city were underappraised. By law, last year we had to go to 100 percent evaluation. Traditionally Eagle Lake's taxable values were approximately assessed at 40 percent of market value. We had homeowners with three different appraised values: city, school and county. Each was independent. About four years ago the taxing units were centralized and all have set rates on the appraised value established by the County Assessor. As close to 100 percent (market value) as can be.

"Last year's tax rate was 60 cents, and the year before it was \$1.50. This year the tax rate will probably fall somewhere

between 35 and 40 cents per \$100. We are attempting to get the same amount of tax dollars as last year. Although values have gone up, the tax rate will come down to prevent a tax increase," said the city manager.

The city council is also due to look into sewer rates during September. E.P.A. regulations say the city sewer plant must be self-supportive, must cover its own operating costs. "Perhaps the best way to get an effective sewer rate is to bill people for consumption. These rates will probably be figured up once a year for consumers and every month for businesses. But the rates will not be effective until the sewer plant is in operation," Klockman said.

Basic Constructors, the company building the city's sewer plant, was given a 31-day extension on their contract, and completion has been set for October 24.

Primary school room-mothers elected

The Eagle Lake Primary School room mothers elections were held in the classrooms Tuesday, August 31st. The following is a list of those student mothers named chairpersons, and the rooms they will be concerned with.

Grade K: Appelt a.m.,

Mrs. Doris Postell; Appelt p.m., Mrs. Barbara Perry; Gertson a.m., Mrs. Coneen Lange; Gertson p.m., Mrs. Mary Ann Wood and Mrs. Cynthia Sunderman.

Grade 1: Keunke, Mrs. Mercedes Gonzales; Leopold, Mrs. Rosa Romo; Shorter, Mrs. Glenda Staudt, Mrs. Glenda Moore.

Grade 2: Ashby, Mrs. Sandy Bendy; Brown, Mrs. Janelle Macbeck; Sperrath, Mrs. Beatrice Beth.

Grade 3: Ardis, Mrs. Diana Brunner; Argo, Mrs. Ann Ward; Klekar, Mrs. Mary Padilla.

Special Education: Darneil, Mrs. Pauline Lira.

City revitalization program outlined; committee formed

A group of local business and property owners, and citizens interested in the future of Eagle Lake, expressed positive concerns last week at a meeting here discussing a city revitalization program called "Main Street."

There were few empty chairs in city council chambers when a representative of the state Main Street program spoke September 1 to more than 50 people.

The meeting was a public session to learn more about the program aimed at revitalization and economic progress in the business district through private, not government, effort and funding.

Questions, comments and volunteers followed the program. "Something" is needed here, one person said. People who signed an attendance list before the meeting—and indicated they were not interested in volunteering to help, changed their mind afterwards.

A committee was formed that night to meet this week or next to further develop the possibility of instituting the program here.

The committee that will work with Paulette Klockman is: Joe Lee McCreary, owner of the Rice Drug Store building, representing downtown property owners; and Elmer Struss, city manager, representing the city.

er of Gifts of Distinction, representing business owners; Roy Dean Van Nort, chamber of commerce; Elfe Thomas, concerned citizens; Robert Klockman, representing the city, and William Harrison, Sr., representing the Industrial Foundation.

The positive response, termed "excellent" by Mrs. Klockman, moderator of the meeting, came after a presentation of more than an hour by Paula Peters, community relations director for the Texas Main Street Program. That program is funded by a private foundation and shares offices with the Texas Historical Commission in Austin.

Following a brief history of Main Street, she outlined the four major areas along which a local program can be organized, then showed various examples of programs in other Texas cities. She answered questions, including some comments on her own stemming from her experiences with the projects elsewhere. She also gave suggestions on how to get started and some of the blockades that will be encountered along the way.

As an example, she flatly stated that while the program is designed as a revitalization of the entire business district, it is not something that can be designed for all concerned, all at one time, then executed according to plan.

"It takes years...it starts with one business or building at a time...the domino theory, get started and the program can be self sustaining."

Main Street came about in the late 1970s through private foundation grants when federally supported "Urban Renewal" became what she called urban removal. After an initial pilot program in a small city in the Midwest, Texas became one of six states in September of 1980 to be chosen to set up the program on a state basis.

To date, 15 cities have become part of the Texas program, which provides technical help through its staff in Austin. Financial help can come through agreements with local financial institutions agreeing to low-interest loans, and through foundations.

However, she emphasized Eagle Lake need not be one of the chosen cities to help itself.

The core of the program is centered on four areas: organization, building revitalization, economic revitalization and promotion.

"What we can do is help ourselves," she said of the organization portion. The group formed last week

Tickets available for Lions 'Capri'

Just in case someone hasn't asked you this week, tickets are available from any Eagle Lake Lions Club member for a 1982 "Black Magic" Capri to be given away in early December.

For a donation of \$15, the buyer has an opportunity to win the car purchased through J. F. Miller Ford, Inc.

When it was announced two weeks ago that the car will be given away this year as a fund raising activity for the club instead of the annual Lions Club Carnival, the tickets were not available.

They were distributed last week and are being sold by any club member.

The car will be on display at various locations where members will have tickets available.

Sheridan Benefit BBQ Saturday

The Sheridan Emergency Aid has made its final announcement for the Ambulance Benefit Barbecue, slated for Saturday, September 11 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Sheridan Community Center.

Preparations have been finalized, and the members are all very excited about the local response," according to S.E.A. reporter Rocky Jahn.

The campaign is geared toward the purchase of a much-needed ambulance for the Sheridan community, and it has been stated that about \$17,000 is needed for the purchase. The barbecue is the first benefit to help raise the needed funds.

Jahn said: "We would like once again to invite anyone interested to come by the community center on Saturday and eat with us, or just come by and show us your support."

Noon meal will be served inside the community center from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Soft drinks, coffee and lots of homebaked goods and desserts will be available. Tickets will cost \$3.75 for adults and \$2.75 for children.

Ambulance Corps meeting

The business meeting of the Eagle Lake Ambulance Corps for September will be held Thursday, September 9 at 7:30 p.m. at the ambulance hall.

Changes in policy will be discussed before sending delegates to a county planning session. The object is to bring the county into line on some very important policy guidelines. Everyone should attend so that each member has input on an issue which involves the membership directly, according to officers.

available, through a plan that brings out the present character of the buildings as they were originally built, not under some plan that puts another new face on the building. "You do not want to create a 'theme park' atmosphere." Included would be a coordinated effort for public improvements that include street signs and parking areas, and beautification projects. One historical commission official in Austin said "Shoppers get turned off by dead bugs in window displays."

Peters said the promotion portion of the program was perhaps the most important. You have to let people know what you are doing and what you have available. "People (in larger cities like Houston) are hungry for the small town experience," she said, emphasizing that people can be attracted here for festivals, and just for the enjoyment of being in a small, friendly community...something they can't experience in Houston.

She suggested the formation of a merchants association, and conducting joint promotions. Printed materials can be produced, including a walking tour of the city, and a shoppers guide.

She was project director for Hillsboro, Texas, and involved with the renovation of the first building there.

JOE WYATT: LEADERSHIP

TO MAKE THINGS BETTER.

When I was eight years old, my folks took my mother's government class on a field trip to Austin. And I got to go along.

I'll never forget the first time I caught sight of the Capitol.

My mother had been telling me about government for as long as I could remember. People who held office were to be admired because their job was to try to make life better for the rest of us.

When I saw the House Chamber, I knew that I wanted to be there some day, so I could help people solve problems and make their lives better.

When I was in high school, I heard about the fight in the Legislature over how to finance education. There was talk that the schools might not open next year if something wasn't done. I just knew that if I was in the Legislature, I could explain the facts in a way that everyone would understand, and that would solve the problem.

In 1970, my childhood dream came true when I was elected to the Texas House of Representatives. I believe the key to being an effective Representative — whether in the Texas Legislature or in Congress — is having a real understanding of the people and the problems that affect them. My understanding of the people I represented came from having been one of them all my life, from sharing the experience of growing up and living in this part of Texas.

The result is that when people in the District — individually or collectively — have a problem with government, I feel that problem personally. And I'll do my best to solve the problem for the people.



When utility bills started to soar, that caused financial problems for the people I represented. So I led the fight to repeal the tax on utility bills. And won. For the people.

When the people in the district felt a need for improved educational facilities, I led the fight to create the University of Houston at Victoria. And won. For the people.

When people in Port Lavaca told me about the need for expanded recreational facilities in their community, I led the fight to create a state park there. And won. For the people.

When I was in Congress, the Army Corps of Engineers announced a plan to create a dump for dredge spoil on 2,000 acres of prime farm land in one of the counties I represented.

I took that very personally, and I didn't like it. I decided that they weren't going to do that to me and the people I represented. I led the fight to delay that project. And won. For the people.

I clearly remember the day I received a phone call from the grief-stricken parents of a young Marine who'd died in an accident. The Corps told the parents that their son's body couldn't be located in the morgue to which it had been sent.

I was horrified. I placed a call to the Marine Corps and within a matter of minutes, the boy's body had been located and was on its way home to Texas.

Later, I received a very touching letter from that family. Being helpful to them when tragedy struck was simply what they had a right to expect from their Congressman.

The next Congress has some tough decisions to make if the people's problems are going to be solved.

I believe people who've worked hard all their lives deserve a secure and fulfilling retirement.

Not long ago, an older woman approached me to express her anxiety about the future of the Social Security System. She gave by on a check of \$280 a month. It's all she has. Tears came to her eyes as she spoke of the pain of not being able to afford little birthday gifts for her grandchildren.

Some people talk about the nation's economy in terms of what happened on Wall Street today, or the prime rate, or the latest unemployment statistics. I see these issues in human terms.

Unemployment statistics don't reflect how many families are being torn apart because Dad can't find work. The prime rate doesn't measure the disappointment of people who've been working and planning for a new home, only to see that dream fading beyond reach.

Few families can feel financially secure in this economic climate. That's why it's important we get federal spending under control and adopt a Constitutional Amendment to balance the budget.

Caring about people's problems. Solving problems. Making life better for people. That's what public office means to me.