

Eagle Lake United Way sets goal

The Eagle Lake United Way needs the public's assistance. The United Way campaign is the one time a year everyone can contribute in helping the community.

"Not just the homeless stranger that the Salvation Army helps, but also friends and members of our own families may benefit from some of many of the agen-

cies' United Way funds," said Mike Duarte, Fund Drive chairman.

Individuals can make contributions any time during the year, but the official drive kicked off Oct. 25 with a walk-a-thon and ends Dec. 31.

Businesses or organizations with 100% contributions (See Goal, Page 8)

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City financial report receives 7th award

By Lynda Appelt, Contributing Writer

The Eagle Lake City Council unanimously accepted the City's audit for the year ending March 31, 1997, as presented by CPA Chris Arthur at its Nov. 11 meeting.

The City's fund balance of the general fund increased by 18.5% in 1997. The fact that all departments came in well under budget contributed to the increase. The \$80,797 increase provides the City the resources necessary to budget more flexibly in the short term.

According to the auditor's opinion, the report states "however, the

City will need to look closely at perhaps increasing the ad valorem taxes to provide adequate revenue to meet citizens' demands for services".

The largest dollar-value increase came from intergovernmental revenue. A large portion of that increase was the HOME Program grant receipts of \$181,453.

The increase in miscellaneous revenue was due primarily to the grant from the LCRA for purchase of computers for the police department.

Non-property taxes reflected a healthy increase due to a 6.88% rise in

the sales and gross receipts tax revenues. Also, the licenses and permits increase indicated a steady growth in new residential construction.

The contingency fund for emergency operation shows a balance of \$76,663, compared to \$72,857 last year.

Arthur announced that the Government Finance Officers Association has awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the City of Eagle Lake for its comprehensive annual financial report for the year ending March 31, 1996. This is the 7th consecutive year the City has received the prestigious award.

The report states, "The preparation of the audit report could not have been accomplished without the efficient and dedicated services of the entire staff of the administrative department. Due credit should be given to the Mayor and the City Council for their interest and support in planning and conducting the operation of the City in a responsible and progressive manner."

Council approved a letter of support for Eagle Lake's proposed assisted living facility to be built at the Rice Medical Center (RMC). The letter will be a part of a package that will be used to apply for non-recourse financing for the project.

"It is no risk financing to taxpayers," stated RMC Hospital Administrator David Keith.

Keith reiterated several times that the extra revenue brought in by the proposed facility should assist in lowering hospital district taxes.

The proposed 48-bed facility will house individuals who are able to function normally, but need help with minor life functions.

"These individuals still drive and shop, and are able to live independent of a nursing home through such a facility," stated Keith.

Sketches of plans for the facility were presented to council by Keith and Project Coordinator for the RMC Toni Jackson. Jackson told Council, "we are losing our senior citizens to other communities. We need to be able to keep them at home!"

Keith cited plans to partner with the Eagle Lake Primary School in an after school program that will allow old and young to work together.

Residents of the facility will have an opportunity to keep active with young children through homework assistance, arts and crafts, play, verbal communication, etc.

"This will be a revenue stream for our community and our hospital," stated Keith.

Keith told Council that assisted living facilities are in great demand since senior citizens from large cities are migrating to rural areas. As an example Keith cited the town of Schulenburg which supports two such facilities; both are at maximum capacity.

In other business, Council:

- Authorized the Mayor to sign a contract with the Texas Department of Economic Development for a Texas Capital Fund Grant of \$535,000 for the medical wastes incinerator project by Dunham Environmental;

- Approved a resolution authorizing the lease purchase of two pickups which have been received by the city;

- Approved allowing the Texas Municipal League to provide property insurance for the Eagle Lake Finance Corporation's 50 rental units;

- Granted a parade permit request for the 9th Annual Lighted Christmas Parade on Saturday, Dec. 6;

- Learned that options have been secured on three parcels of land totalling 120 acres, surveys and environmental studies completed and financing being investigated for the construction of the 1,000 bed prison facility. The site is located east of FM 3013 between the two railroad tracks;

- Heard a report on the re-opening of the Eagle Lake airport scheduled for Nov. 24;

- And learned that with the progress being made on the juvenile "boot camp" facility, scheduled opening is still projected for March.



Thanks Aplenty!

We're very grateful for your support.
Enjoy a most happy holiday!

NEWSBRIEFS

Businesses closed for Thanksgiving

The City Offices will be closed on Nov. 27 and 28 in observance of Thanksgiving. There will be no garbage pickup those two days. Normal pickup will resume on Monday, Dec. 1.

Other businesses closed on Thursday, Nov. 27, will be The First National Bank, Wallis State Bank and Eagle Lake Post Office. The *Headlight* will be closed Thursday and Friday. We will open at 9 a.m. Monday, Dec. 1.

GCA meeting set for Nov. 24

The Garwood Community Association will meet Monday, Nov. 24, at 7 p.m. at the meeting room to finalize plans for a "Huge Christmas in a Tiny Town" on Dec. 6. Come and enjoy a productive evening with your friends and neighbors. Also, there is still time to reserve a booth for the craft show. Food booths are especially needed. Call 758-3534 or 758-3208.

Study Club Christmas party

The Eagle Lake Study Club Christmas Party will be held at Keiler's Hotel in Fayetteville on Dec. 10. Members will meet at the library at 1 p.m. The speaker will be Louis Polansky.

Little League meeting Dec. 4

The Eagle Lake Little League will meet on Thursday, Dec. 4, at 7 p.m. at City Hall. Anyone and everyone interested in the 1998 season needs to be at this meeting which includes T-ball, minor, major, softball coaches and parents.

Sealy Fantasy of Lights Parade is Dec. 6

The Sealy Chamber of Commerce announces the 11th annual "Fantasy of Lights Parade" and "Fantasy Park" on Dec. 6. Beautifully lit floats, a marching band, local service organizations and other exciting entries will parade through Sealy's delightfully decorated homes and businesses. The city is truly an awesome inspirational sight for the holidays. Contact the Sealy Chamber of Commerce for additional information, 409-885-3222.

Blood Drive in Nada Dec. 7

The Knights of Columbus will sponsor a blood drive on Sunday, Dec. 7, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Nada in the church library from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Contact Richard Lesak at 409-282-2706 or Betty Webb at The Blood Center, 1-888-GV-BLOOD, ext. 234. The holiday season is a critical time for those in need of blood. Usage is typically up, while donations, nationwide, tend to be down. Please give the gift of life.

Thanksgiving service Nov. 23

The Eagle Lake Ministerial Alliance Thanksgiving Service will be held at the First Baptist Church Sunday, Nov. 23, at 7 p.m. There will be a fellowship after the service. Please join us at this special time.

Singles dance is this Friday

The Fort Bend County Singles will sponsor a public dance on Friday, Nov. 21, at 8 p.m. at the KC Hall in Needville. Music will be provided by the Donnie Wavra Orchestra. Door prizes will be given, admission is \$5 per person. For more information call 409-793-6557 or 793-4573.

'A Huge Christmas in a Tiny Town'

"A Huge Christmas in a Tiny Town" will be held in downtown Garwood Saturday, Dec. 6, starting at 10 a.m. Arts and crafts booths, country store, tea room and entertainment will be held. Hamburgers will be on sale from 4 to 8 p.m. sponsored by the Garwood Volunteer Fire Department. A drawing and dunking booth will be sponsored by the Garwood Lions Club. A live nativity will be held at 6 p.m. followed by Mr. and Mrs. Santa. For booth space information, call 409-758-3476.

Entries sought for Christmas parade

Entries are being sought for the 9th Annual Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce Lighted Christmas Parade which will be held Saturday, Dec. 6. Line-up time is from 4 to 5:20 p.m.; judging, 5:20 p.m.; parade time, 6:45 p.m. The Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary will sell hamburgers on the square. The Eagle Lake Pilot Club will sell snacks and hot chocolate and the Cub Scouts will sell cold drinks. Entertainment on the square by Gary Tise will precede the parade. Parade entry forms are available at the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce, *Eagle Lake Headlight* or from Lynda Appelt. Call 234-5878 for parade information or to volunteer to help with the line-up. Parade officials hope to make this the largest ever!

Merchants check your lights

Downtown merchants are reminded to check your Christmas light to make sure that they are in working order before the Lighted Christmas Parade set to take place on Dec. 6.

'Small Town Christmas' set for Dec. 14

The Sheridan Lions Club is holding meetings each Sunday at 4 p.m. in preparation for the "Small Town Christmas" program slated for 6 p.m. Dec. 14 at Logan Park in Sheridan. Zelda Walker and Brent Pittman encourage all to attend.

RMC Pink Ladies need volunteers

The Rice Medical Center Ladies Auxiliary (Pink Ladies) needs volunteers. Talk to any Pink Lady or come by the Hospital auxiliary room for more information.

Business Expo '97 is Saturday

Extra! Extra! Read all about it! Colorado County Economic Development Organization (CCEDO) will hold the first ever county-wide business expo Saturday, Nov. 22, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the KC Hall on I-10 near Glidden.

"If the public's enthusiasm matches our county businesses', then we'll have a great day," CCEDO Executive Director DeNae Park said. "We're just thrilled that every single booth of the original 44 has been sold for the event," she added.

Colorado County Judge Vince Slominski said there are several reasons the public will want to attend this event. "Most importantly, this is an opportunity for the citizens to learn about the businesses we have in our County," he said.

"These existing businesses provide jobs, products and services for us right here in Colorado County. If it weren't for these businesses, we would have to find these jobs, products and services somewhere else," Slominski emphasized.

In addition to the educational value of the showcase, citizens visiting Business Expo '97 will enjoy free admission, free hotdogs and free entertainment provided by area schools and youth organizations.

One of the day's highlights will be the give-away of four door prizes. Citizens must register in person to win a one-night stay at the beautiful Magnolia Oaks bed and breakfast, two \$100 gift certificates to use at participating businesses and an 18-inch animated, illuminated Santa Claus.

EAGLE LAKE POLICE REPORT

The Eagle Lake Police Department reported the following cases and calls for the week ending Monday, Nov. 17.

On Nov. 12 at 2 p.m., Lt. Johnson met with a complainant who had found a tool box. The tool box was recovered and a report filed.

At 7:46 p.m., Sgt. Jack Knox was dispatched to Partridge Lane in reference to a suspicious vehicle.

The vehicle was located and the driver identified. No other action was necessary.

Sgt. Knox was dispatched to Schley Street at 10 p.m. in reference to a vehicle fire.

Sgt. Knox assisted the fire department with traffic control while the fire was put out.

On Nov. 13 at 4:34 p.m., Officer Tim Crume was dispatched to the 800 block of East Main in reference to a found bicycle.

The bicycle was recovered and a report filed.

At 5:27 p.m., Officer Crume was dispatched to a disturbance in the 500 block of East Main.

Officer Crume met with the complainant, but they did not wish to file charges. No other action was taken.

At 9:20 p.m., Officer Bill Lattimore observed graffiti on the street in the 300 block of First Street. A report was filed.

On Nov. 14 at 12:25 a.m., Officer Carl Risk was dispatched to a disturbance on B Street.

The suspect had left the scene prior to Officer Risk's arrival and no violence had occurred.

The suspect was later located and this contact resulted in Preston Jenkins being arrested for possession of drug paraphernalia.

After processing at the police department, Jenkins was transported to the county jail for confinement.

At 9:18 a.m., Officer Risk investigated a two-vehicle accident in the 500 block of East Main.

The accident involved a 1994 Ford pickup being driven by David Lee Rich of Angleton and a 1994 Hyundai four-door driven by Atilana Martinez Fuentes of Eagle Lake.

Fuentes, who was attempting a left turn into a private parking lot, failed to yield the right of way to Rich, striking the Rich vehicle. There were no injuries sustained.

At 3:41 a.m., Officer Risk was contacted by the Wharton County Sheriff's Office in regard to a suspicious vehicle coming into Eagle Lake.

Investigation led to the driver, Terri Tate, being arrested on outstanding DPS warrants.

The passenger, Curtis Tate, was arrested for public intoxication. Both subjects were processed and transported to the county jail for confinement.

At 12:57 p.m., Officer Crume and Chief Keith Webb were dispatched to the 500 block of East Main in reference to family violence.

Upon meeting with the victim, it was learned that the incident had occurred on Raezer Street.

The suspect, Bobby Molano, was located and arrested for family violence assault and violation of a protective order. He was transported to the police department.

After being mirandized and while giving Chief Webb a statement, Molano ran from the police department.

After a brief chase, Molano was re-arrested and further charged with felony escape.

After processing, Molano was transported to the county jail for confinement.

At 4:08 p.m., Officer Crume was dispatched to B Street in reference to suspicious persons on the abandoned property.

The subjects were located and advised not to hang out there.

At 8:15 p.m., Officer Crume was dispatched to a disturbance on N. Lake Avenue.

One subject was transported to a relative and no other action was required.

On Nov. 15, at 12:10 a.m., Officer Lattimore was dispatched to a disturbance on Pendleton Street. Two subjects were given courtesy transports to another location for the night.

At 12:59 a.m., Officer Risk conducted a traffic stop in the 800 block of East Main Street resulting in the driver, Arthur Banks, being arrested for driving while license suspended.

After processing, Banks was transported to the county jail for confinement.

At 6:59 p.m., Officer Lattimore was dispatched to the Dollar General Store in reference to a shoplifter.

After investigation, Shanna Sewell was cited for theft and arrested on outstanding warrants.

After processing on the warrants Sewell was transported to the county jail for confinement.

At 8:22 p.m., Sgt. Knox was contacted in reference to a subject possibly buying beer for minors.

Sgt. Knox contacted the suspect and checked his driver's license which revealed an outstanding warrant out of Harris County for possession of a controlled substance.

Genaro Betancourt Jr. of South Houston was processed and transported to the county jail for confinement.

On Nov. 16, at 7:03 a.m., Office Brian Ochoa investigated a burglary at the Dairy Queen. The front door had been broken and the safe was found open and empty.

Officer Risk and Lt. Johnson conducted the initial investigation.

On Tuesday, Nov. 18, Chief Webb and Lt. Johnson arrested Maria Rodriguez of Eagle Lake for burglary of a building after a two-day investigation.

Rodriguez was transported to the County Detention Center.

On Nov. 17, at 6:40 p.m., Officer Lattimore met with a subject at the police department in reference to an accident with a cow on FM 3013.

Officer Lattimore contacted a DPS officer who investigated the accident.

At 9:18 p.m., Sgt. Knox was dispatched to Willis Street in reference to a suspicious vehicle.

Upon his arrival, the vehicle had left the area.

At 9:25 p.m., Officer Lattimore conducted a civil standby on Raezer Street while the subject removed clothing from the residence.

County Grand Jury indicts 19

The Colorado County Grand Jury returned indictments on 19 individuals Friday, Nov. 7. Cases were presented by First Assistant County Attorney Joe Fling. Indicted were:

- David Villareal Flores, aggravated assault occurring 8-17-97;
- Shonyaso Gilstrap, deadly conduct, 7-19-97;
- Nellie Orise Jenkins, felony driving while intoxicated, 9-1-97;
- Willie Lewis Utley, theft, 7-27-97;
- Rafael Martinez Silva, burglary of a habitation, 5-7-97;
- Rafael Martinez Silva, burglary of a habitation, 7-2-97;
- Rafael Martinez Silva, burglary of a habitation, 7-9-97;
- Rafael Martinez Silva, burglary of a habitation, 7-11-97;
- Alonzo Soliz Jr., possession of marijuana, 7-13-97;
- Tonny Anthony Clayton, aggravated assault, 8-22-97;

(See Indictments, Page 8)