

Remembering Our Roots...



As We Build Our Future





Letter from the City Manager

Dear Citizens:

I am proud and pleased to be able to present to you the 2004 Annual Report to the People. This past year, our focus has been on preserving our history through maintenance efforts in our downtown area. As a designated 2005 Main Street City, we hope to restore our historical downtown, fill it with thriving businesses and make it a safe place for those who call Livingston home. As you read through the report, I hope you'll discover new things not only about our present day government and services, but also uncover some of the history behind our town.

With some degree of sadness, I must report to you that this will be my last communication with you through this Annual Report. As of March 31, 2005 I will retire from this position after more than 20 years with the City. Even though I know I will miss the daily interaction with my co-workers, my neighbors in the community and my dialogue with you, the citizens, I am looking forward to the opportunities that will become available with the additional freedom afforded by retirement. It is my intention to stay involved in civic affairs, but on a different level.

It has been a distinct honor and pleasure to have the opportunity to work for the City since August 1984, and to serve as your City Manager since February 1996. As you may well expect, there have been significant changes in Livingston since I began my employment. Although the population of the immediate city has not increased dramatically, Polk County has seen tremendous growth, which has greatly impacted the services offered by the City. Through the years we have tried to upgrade and expand our infrastructure to respond to new development within the area. Our streets - one of our longest capital assets - are currently undergoing improvements and upgrades to keep up with ever increasing traffic loads. And, over the years we have greatly expanded the recreational opportunities for our community. A review of the Annual Reports from years past provides a complete overview of significant events of the last 20 years. It has truly been an honor to participate in our city government during this time.

During my career, our city government has been, for the most part, blessed with a stable and conservative City Council. The citizens, over the years, have elected officials who have accepted the responsibility of their positions without thought of personal reward and have conducted the City's business in a professional, non-partisan fashion. For this we can all be grateful.

Let me encourage you to support your local city government along with your elected and appointed officials as they go about their daily work in providing city services to you. Although you may not agree with every action taken by the City, rest assured that every decision made has been thoroughly considered and is in the best interest of a majority of the citizens.

In closing, allow me to thank all of you for your support and cooperation over the past 20 years. It has been an exhilarating experience and I am glad I was along for the ride.

Sincerely,

Sam Gordon

Sam Gordon
City Manager

Letter from the Mayor



Dear Fellow Citizens:

On behalf of your Livingston City Council, I am pleased to address you in our annual report. This year's report is focused on the theme of "Remembering Our Roots...As We Build Our Future."

Your city has been very active in both of these areas. As you will see elsewhere in this report, we are most pleased to have been chosen as one of only four successful applicants for the State of Texas Main Street Program. This program promotes reconstruction and preservation of the historic downtown area of our community. A manager has been hired, and training is underway to enable our city to carry out the goals of this new project.

Your City Council and our staff have been busy in several areas relating to the future of our city. Our multi-year street rebuilding program is nearing completion. Improvement plans for the Livingston Municipal Airport, adopted by our City Council in 2003, have been funded by a grant from the Federal Aviation Administration, which will provide about \$900,000 of the \$1,000,000 needed for the project.

You will see Livingston's continued growth in the statistical information presented as part of this report. To assist in managing that growth and the related commercial and residential construction that is accompanying it, the City Council hired our first Community Development Coordinator in September 2004. The function of this office is to oversee all aspects of community development, including subdivision review, building plan review, coordination of inspections and code enforcement.

I'm sad to note the death of long-time Councilman, Dr. Kenneth Parkhill. Dr. Parkhill served the Livingston community unselfishly for many years, not only through his veterinary practice, but as a Trustee of the Livingston Independent School District and with his service on our City Council. He also served as Livingston's representative on the Deep East Texas Council of Governments and for many years served as my backup as Mayor Pro-Tem. His absence leaves a void that will be hard to fill.

I also want to recognize the upcoming retirement of City Manager Sam Gordon. Sam was hired as Assistant City Manager in 1984 and promoted to City Manager in 1986. During his tenure, he has done a fine job of bringing excellent service to our citizens and carefully managing the costs associated with our city government. He has done a great deal for our city and we wish him, and his wife Margie, all the best for a rewarding retirement.

It's no surprise that the Council has chosen long-time city employee Marilyn Sutton to become our new City Manager. Marilyn has worked her way up through City of Livingston employment, starting as a clerk and serving recently as Assistant City Manager and Financial Officer. I am confident of her integrity and ability, and I'm sure she will serve our city very well.

As always, I appreciate the hard and efficient work of our City of Livingston staff and employees.

I also want to extend a personal "Thank You" to the members of our City Council, who serve without compensation to make the City of Livingston a great place to live.

Ben R. Ogletree, Jr.
Mayor



Livingston City Council

Back row from the left: Ray Hill, Gene Bush, Clarke Evans, Councilmen; Front row from the left: Bill Watson, Councilman; Ben R. Ogletree, Jr., Mayor; Kenneth Parkhill, Mayor Pro-tem

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT FACTS: YOUR CITY GOVERNMENT

DATE OF INCORPORATION
October 3, 1902

CITY CHARTER
General Law City

FORM OF GOVERNMENT
Council/Manager

ELECTED OFFICIALS
Mayor and 5 Council members

TERM OF OFFICE
2 Years

REGULAR MEETINGS
2nd Tuesday of each month at 5:00 PM

SPECIAL MEETINGS
Called by Mayor

Economic Indicator	2002-2003	2003-2004	Percent Change
Sales Tax Revenue	\$2,199,629	\$2,324,945	5.7% increase
Electric Sales - KwH	77,604,894	78,477,670	1.1% increase
Water Sales - Gallons	600,589,000	613,699,000	2.2% increase
Hotel Occupancy Tax	\$116,991	\$136,563	16.7% increase
Assessed Property Value	\$211,680,559	\$229,488,246	8.4% increase

2004 Statistics

CITY OF LIVINGSTON, TEXAS REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES BY DEPARTMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 9/30/04

Revenues

Property Tax	\$0
Sales Tax	\$2,324,945
Hotel Occupancy Tax	\$136,563
Gross Receipts Tax	\$134,374
Administrative Department	\$174,965
Sanitation Department	\$708,348
Fire Department	\$96,832
Police Department	\$238,134
Street Department	\$405,933
Parks & Recreation	\$285,872
Library Department	\$21,453
Trade Days Department	\$141,928
Electric Department	\$7,527,041
Water Department	\$1,637,733
Sewer Department	\$1,091,190

Total Revenues	\$14,925,311
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Expenditures

Administrative Department	\$244,181
Sanitation Department	\$508,272
Fire Department	\$254,430
Police Department	\$1,034,593
Street Department	\$371,020
Parks & Recreation	\$375,402
Trade Days Department	\$259,972
Library Department	\$211,390
Garage Department	\$128,545
Electric Department	\$7,220,031
Water Department	\$1,440,698
Sewer Department	\$366,328
Capital Improvements	\$2,926,028
Debt Service	\$930,800

Total Expenditures	\$16,271,690
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MUNICIPAL COURT STATISTICS – 2004

Traffic Violations	1,189
Criminal Violations	1,030
Other Violations	23
Total Violations	2,242

Total Fines & Fees Collected	\$193,562.51
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BUILDING PERMIT RECAP – 2004

Number of permits	131
New single family units	33 permits @ \$2,090,562
Additions to single family units	12 permits @ \$209,858
New multi-family units	0
New additions to multi-family units	3 permits @ \$68,196
New commercial	23 permits @ \$3,999,907
Additions to commercial	26 permits @ \$2,238,811
Sign permits	27 permits @ \$132,925
Demolition permits	7

Total Construction Value for 2004	\$8,740,259
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POLICE DEPARTMENT STATISTICS – 2003-2004

Criminal Offense Report	1,220
Adult Arrests	433
Juvenile Arrests	242
Accidents Worked	339
Fatalities	1
Alarms	420
Citations Issued	2,127

Total Calls	7,475
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ANIMAL CONTROL STATISTICS – 2003-2004

Dog Calls	545
Cat Calls	103
Livestock Calls	26
Fowl Calls	1
Wildlife Calls	65
Other Calls	2,249

Total Calls	2,989
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*Above figures are audited amounts. Expenses include bond funds for street improvement project.

RAILROAD COMES TO TOWN

Livingston was a largely agricultural area in the early years. Cotton and corn were the primary crops grown here in the 1860s. Population growth came fast when the **Houston, East and West Texas railroad** construction came through Livingston in the **1880s**.

With steady transportation of goods possible, Livingston saw many lumber sawmills built in and around the area. The town also served as a trading center for area farmers.

Population was estimated at 135 in 1880, but by 1900 the population had grown to 1,024.



January 2004

We started 2004 off with a bang! From drainage improvements to electric service to new water and sewer taps, Livingston prepared for the new businesses and residents coming to town. And, once again the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality found no areas of concern with Livingston's drinking water.

- Crushed asphalt was installed on walkways and new handicapped parking lot at Trade Days using material that was reclaimed from the street renovation project.
- Street contractor continued work on street and drainage improvements in various parts of town.
- Library adopted new policies that include grace periods for overdue items and increased fines for overdue items.
- Completed the water line upgrade on Feagin Street from a 2" line to a 3" line to provide better volume and quality of water for 23 customers.
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality conducted the annual inspection of Livingston's drinking water and facilities and found no areas of concern or operations not in compliance with state guidelines.
- Continued to upgrade water and sewer lines along streets that were being improved as part of the street renovation project.
- Made numerous new water and sewer taps for new customers.
- Began work on electrical service to new Lowe's Home Center on the US 59 bypass at Mill Ridge Drive.
- Worked on underground electrical service to The Retreat, a new active adult residential subdivision on the US 59 bypass north.
- Trimmed and cut trees in various parts of town to improve electrical service and reduce outages.
- City Council approved the final plat of The Retreat subdivision and the final plat of the Livingston Field of Dreams medical campus subdivision located on the US 59 bypass.



February 2004

The Second Annual Civil War Reenactment was the highlight in February. Although it was cold, Livingston welcomed more than 800 reenactors to this three-day event. Special thanks goes to the many community service organizations that made this event so successful.

- Drainage work was performed in various parts of town.
- Author Bob Bowman visited Murphy Memorial Library and discussed his new book, "Historic Murders of East Texas."
- Installed 24 water taps, upgraded service lines from 3/4" to 1" and replaced approximately 800 feet of water and sewer lines.
- Completed electrical service to the new Jack-in-the-Box at Church and Houston Streets and put the customer on line.
- Outside auditors completed the comprehensive annual financial report for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2003, in compliance with new GASB 34 requirements, and made reporting format changes to include the Management's Discussion and Analysis, new fixed asset schedule and depreciation schedules and government-wide schedules.
- City Council adopted an ordinance regulating non-emergency ambulance service inside the city limits.
- The Second Annual Civil War Reenactment, The Battle for Long King Creek, at Pedigo Park attracted more than 800 reenactors participating in the three-day special event.
- Received a Texas Capital Fund grant in the amount of \$214,019.20 to improve Mill Ridge Drive with a concrete surface from the US 59 bypass frontage road in association with Lowe's Home Center, Inc. construction project.





The creation of sidewalks in Livingston dates back all the way to the 1910s when city leaders began improvements in town. Sidewalks were necessary for the safe travel of the citizens, especially in the downtown area where merchants were located. Businesses, landowners and homeowners were willing to foot the bill for the improvements in front of their properties.

Work started on Jackson Street in February 1914 during Mayor A.T. Feagin's term. By September 1915, three miles of concrete walks had been laid in the center of town.



March 2004

It's springtime in Livingston! In March, the City prepared for the spring growing season by planting flowers and reworking flowerbeds at City Hall, Murphy Memorial Library and all park locations. In addition, we continued upgrading water, sewer and electrical services.

- Collected citywide brush and debris on an intermittent basis.
- Research on sewer inflow and infiltration problems in the northwest portion of the city began.
- Improved water pressure and water volume delivery in the vicinity of Milam and Oakhurst by replacing an old water line and making a tap to create a loop in the distribution system.
- Began work on the 6" water line upgrade on West North Street.
- Made 16 new water and sewer taps.
- Put the new Lowe's Home Center on line with electric service and executed an agreement to provide electric service.
- Construction began to extend electric service to the new Lake Livingston Water Supply office on North Washington.
- Continued cutting and trimming trees in proximity to electric distribution lines in various parts of town to reduce electric outages and improve the reliability of electric service.
- City staff, Chamber and Merchants' Guild representatives attended a tourism workshop in Nacogdoches.
- The Livingston Volunteer Fire Department conducted an area fire training school on March 20th with more than 450 firemen from neighboring departments in attendance.



THE CITY INCORPORATES

The City of Livingston filed incorporation papers in 1902, but did little past that until 1911. No officers were elected until a mass meeting was called to nominate candidates on **March 10, 1911**. The crowd that was gathered nominated six men to serve as mayor and aldermen.

The election for the City Council was held on April 6. No opposition was filed for the election, and voter turnout was light. The first mayor was Capt. J.M. Greer; and aldermen included J.W. Cochran, L.F. Gerlach, C.F. Fain, W.D. Willis and E.J. Manry. M.A. Jones was also elected as city marshal.



THE FIRST CITY GOLF COURSE

In 1961, plans got underway for a city golf course. First, city-owned lands were identified, with additional property purchased from two local residents.

Local interest was high for the new course being built. The Livingston Golf Association was started in **1964**. The City Manager was authorized to search for a person to supervise the course in **April** of that year. By June, City Council was pushing to get the course in operational condition.

In 1968, annual green fees were \$50. Daily green fees for adults were \$1.50 (weekdays) and \$2 for Saturday, Sunday and holidays.

April 2004

Although April was filled with good times and special events, including the Easter Eggstravaganza and Relay for Life, Livingston lost a long-time employee and friend - Jane Reuter.

- Began the patching of city streets with hot mix.
- Held the Fifth Annual Easter Eggstravaganza at Pedigo Park, with children searching for more than 12,000 candy-filled and/or prize-filled eggs.



- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality conducted the annual inspection of the wastewater treatment plant and determined compliance with the state permit requirements.
- Installed 12 new water and sewer taps, replaced 19 existing water meters, replaced 530' of deteriorating water line, and replaced two fire hydrants.
- Completed electric service to the new Lake Livingston Water Supply office on North Washington.
- Began trimming along electric rights-of-way in various parts of town to reduce electric outages and improve electric service.
- Renewed lease of nine-hole municipal golf course to Mill Ridge Golf Club for a one-year term through April 30, 2005.
- City employees formed the "Red Hot Chili Peppers" team and participated for the third year in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life fundraising event at Pedigo Park.



- Third annual volunteer recognition reception was held at City Hall to recognize and honor the many community volunteers who provide a variety of services to the public.
- Hosted a quarterly regional meeting of the Texas Municipal Clerks Association with City Secretaries from neighboring cities in attendance.



In Memory of Jane Reuter

Jane Reuter, former Utility Billing Supervisor for the City of Livingston, passed away on April 15, 2004. Jane began working for the City on January 11, 1982 and retired in August 2003 after 21 years of loyal service to our citizens. She began working in the Utility Billing department as a clerk and handled a variety of duties, including accounts payable until her promotion to Utility Billing Supervisor in 1991. Under her supervision, the utility billing process was computerized and new customer services were offered.

May 2004

May is election month in Livingston. On May 15, 2004 incumbents Ben R. Ogletree, Jr. and Gene Bush were re-elected to two-year terms on City Council. Ray Hill was elected to his first two-year term as well. And, the first buzz about Main Street began as Council authorized Livingston's application for designation as a 2005 Main Street City.

- Experienced severe localized flooding along Choates Creek after receiving more than eight inches of rain in a six-hour period.
- Culvert replacement and enlargement project on Mimosa Street West of Towne Forest subdivision was completed at a cost of \$43,000.
- New slide installed at the swimming pool in Matthews Park.
- Spanish language materials were added to the collection at Murphy Memorial Library.
- Relocated various water and sewer mains and manholes in connection with the street improvement project.
- Constructed an electric distribution line to serve the new Masonic Lodge on North Washington (Business 59).
- Continued mowing rights-of-way and trimming trees adjacent to electric lines to reduce electric outages and improve reliability of electric service.
- City Council adopted proclamation recognizing May 9-15 as Police Week and May 15 as Peace Officers' Memorial Day.
- City Council adopted specifications and fees and implemented procedures for permitting driveways on city streets.
- City Council authorized submission of a Main Street application to the Texas Historical Commission for designation of Livingston as a 2005 Main Street City.
- City Council authorized participation in the City Pride Sign project at five highway locations marking entrances into the city, in coordination with the Texas Department of Transportation and local civic clubs.



- City employees from various departments participated in Career Day at the LISD Intermediate campus, speaking with more than 400 5th and 6th grade students about municipal careers and demonstrating equipment from the electric, police and street departments.
- City staff, Chamber and Merchants' Guild representatives attended a tri-county regional tourism tour of Tyler County tourist and recreational facilities.

MUNICIPAL AIRPORT LIFTS OFF

In May 1967, City Council agreed to purchase a tract of land almost 58 acres in size for the municipal airport. Dr. J.G. Brock received \$21,973.42 for the property of the proposed airstrip. Site clearing contracts were awarded by the middle of 1968, and bids were taken for the construction of the airport that year. Available funds totaled over \$145,000 for the airport project to get off the ground.

Former Livingston Mayor E. Joe Pedigo, Londa Ogletree and Ben R. Ogletree, Jr. (current mayor) made the first landing on the new airstrip at the airport.



WATER FLOWS INTO LIVINGSTON

Plans for the city's water system began in 1914. Citizens voted in a bond election to issue a \$25,000 bond to pay for the new addition to the city.

By June 1915, the system was complete and was ready for service.

Applications for water service were accepted starting June 24, 1915 and nearly 50 applications were filed in the first week.

June 2004

The City staff began expanding with the approval from City Council for a Community Development Coordinator and Special Events/Main Street Coordinator. In June 2004, Livingston also held a town meeting and formed an application committee in support of the Main Street Program.

- Began drainage ditch maintenance and installed new storm drain on East Street.
- Began construction of pole-mounted snowflakes and shooting stars for Christmas season during the unusually wet summer month.
- Summer Reading Club began at Murphy Memorial Library with 199 children signing up for the program, which was funded through the donation of \$2,500 from the Friends of Murphy Memorial Library.
- Replaced several hundred feet of deteriorating water and sewer line and began work on 6" water line upgrade on North Street.
- Research continued on inflow and infiltration problems in the northwest portion of the city.
- Continued installation of underground electric service at The Retreat subdivision on the US 59 bypass north, an over-55 active adult community.
- Continued trimming trees and mowing rights-of-way along electric distribution lines.
- City Council approved a 2.1 percent cost-of-living salary increase for all municipal employees to be effective October 1, 2004.
- City Council approved establishment of a Community Development office and authorized the employment of a Coordinator to set up a one-stop system for building permits, inspections, platting, etc.



- Ray Hill was appointed by City Council to serve on the Deep East Texas Council of Governments Board of Directors beginning July 1, 2004.
- Main Street town meeting was held with Main Street managers from Beaumont and Henderson, who provided information on the Main Street program to an audience of more than 75 interested citizens.
- Council authorized the hiring of a Special Events/Main Street Coordinator to oversee the monthly Trade Days event as well as other special community events.
- Held the Fourth Annual Sonic "50s" party at the Matthews swimming pool with more than 400 children in attendance.
- Main Street Application Committee was formed and began meeting weekly to gather the required information for the submission of the application to the Texas Historical Commission by the July 31, 2004 deadline.



- In compliance with state law, the Consumer Confidence Report was prepared and mailed to all Livingston residents for the calendar year 2003 to provide information on the quality of Livingston's drinking water.
- Meetings with numerous civic organizations were held to plan the City Pride highway entrance signs.

July 2004

One of Livingston's hallmark events is the Red, White and Blue Kid Fun Fest and Parade held in Anniversary Park. This year was no exception. Can you guess who Uncle Sam is?

- Leveled East Abbey Street for street contractors to apply two-course seal coat.
- Summer Reading Club at Murphy Memorial Library ended with 139 children receiving reading certificates and the top reader reading 350 books.
- Work continued on the 6" water line upgrade on North Street from Beatty to Drew Street.
- Continued installation of underground electric service at The Retreat subdivision on the US 59 bypass.
- The Red, White and Blue Kid Fun Fest and parade were held in Anniversary Park in downtown Livingston to celebrate the 4th of July.
- City Council authorized assessment and walk-through of Choates Creek by engineering firm to gather data for flood hazard and mitigation planning.
- City Council authorized a grant application to the Texas Water Development Board, through the FEMA Cooperative Technical Partners program, for flood hazard planning with the submission of the application to be determined at a later date.
- Held the Fifth Annual Polar Bear party at the Matthews swimming pool with more than 200 children in attendance.
- Two City Council members attended the Texas Municipal League Newly-Elected Officials training seminar in Austin.
- Nine members of the Volunteer Fire Department attended the Texas A&M fire training school, and four firefighters served as course instructors.



- Purchased equipment for various departments with Federal Homeland Security grant funds including:
 - New radio repeater for the Police Department
 - Portable radio equipment for the Public Works Department
 - Digital radio equipment for the Fire and Police Departments
 - Emergency response trailer with traffic control equipment (cones and barricades) for the Public Works Department
 - Night vision equipment for the Police Department
 - Personal protective equipment for all City Departments for protection at hazardous response scenes (respirators and disposable encapsulated suits)
 - Gas detectors for Fire and Public Works Departments
 - Decontamination shower equipment for the Fire Department
 - All-terrain vehicles for transportation of personnel and equipment at response locations
 - Fully-enclosed cargo trailer to facilitate the storage and transportation of response equipment to various locations
- Received Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program grant in the amount of \$10,456 for the purchase of computer and inter-operable communications equipment for the police department.

LIVINGSTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT IS CREATED

With the waterworks system in place, City Council took action to create the Livingston Volunteer Fire Department at a special meeting on **July 12, 1915**. K.G. Peebles was appointed Fire Chief, and Ernest Reuter, Sr. was assigned the position of Fire Marshal.

In 1923, the first pumper was purchased, along with 2,000 feet of hose and various protective clothing and equipment. The first fire station was constructed in 1938.



DOWNTOWN LIVINGSTON DESTROYED BY FIRE IN AUGUST 1902

It started in the back of the J.W. Cochran and Co. building on North Washington in **August 1902**. The "courthouse square" was surrounded by all wooden structures. Because Texas had suffered a summer drought, the fire spread quickly among the wooden buildings.

The only buildings to survive the fire in the downtown area were the A.B. Green abstract office and the County courthouse. The courthouse was one of the few brick buildings in town at the time, and that was the leading cause for its survival.



August 2004

The rising temperatures didn't phase City crews. In August, they continued cutting trees, installing new storm drains and upgrading water lines throughout the town. And, City Council reviewed options and cost estimates for improving West Street from the bypass to Beatty Street.

- Began cutting trees that overhang streets in various parts of town.
- Installed new storm drains on Campbell Wood Drive and on Willis Avenue.
- Murphy Memorial Library staff attended Texshare database workshop in Houston.
- Continued work on 6" water line upgrade on North Street by making a bore under North Street and laying pipe down Drew Street.
- Replaced and raised 190' of 6" sewer clay tile main and a manhole from Bluebird Street through to Clark Street above the floodplain to eliminate infiltration/inflow problems in the area.
- Continued trimming electric rights-of-way and along electric distribution service lines.
- Council reviewed options and cost estimate for improving West Street from the bypass to Beatty Street.
- Mary Hanson Hirsch donated 8.737 acres of land to the city adjacent to the Livingston Municipal Airport on FM 350 South in memory of her father, Frederic Louis Hanson.
- Began interviewing applicants for the new Community Development Coordinator and Special Events/Main Street Coordinator job positions.
- Kim McKnight, the Texas Historical Commission Main Street Director, visited with the Main Street Application Committee members and toured downtown Livingston.



September 2004

The City hosted a Small Cities Problem-Solving Clinic at the Chamber of Commerce meeting room with more than 50 city officials in attendance.

- Sprayed all baseball, softball and soccer fields at Pedigo Park to eliminate a severe army worm infestation.
- Completed annual weeding of the adult book collection at the Murphy Memorial Library.
- Began work on the sewer line upgrade on Springhill Drive.
- Continued trimming electric service lines and rights-of-way in various parts of town.



In Memory of Dr. Parkhill

Dr. Kenneth Parkhill, Mayor Pro-tem and retired veterinarian, passed away on September 12, 2004. He served on the City Council since 1987 and as Mayor Pro-Tem since 1990. His years of dedicated service to the community also included membership in the Livingston Lions Club and Masonic Lodge, service as a trustee and Sunday school teacher at First United Methodist Church and volunteer service at the Polk County Mission Center.

- Texas Department of Transportation presents new access rules to City Council and explains impact on property owners abutting state highways.
- City Council adopted the National Incident Management System (NIMS) for use of emergency preparedness personnel, in compliance with federal requirements.
- City Council approved the Hazard Mitigation Action Plan, as presented and approved by the State of Texas, and authorized submission of the Hazard Mitigation Action Plan to the federal agencies for approval.

- City Council revised the term and interest rates for property owner participation in street paving projects, with the term increased from three to five years and the interest rate reduced from eight percent simple interest to five percent simple interest.

- City hosted the monthly Green Forest Water Association meeting of water and wastewater area personnel at the fire training hall on US 190 West.

- City staff attended a Tourism Council workshop in Lufkin, hosted by the Pineywoods Economic Partnership.

October 2004

It's official! Livingston was designated a 2005 Main Street City in October by the Texas Historical Commission.

- City of Livingston became a member of the Texas Yes! Program sponsored by the Texas Department of Agriculture to help rural communities promote tourism.
- City of Livingston received official notification from the Texas Historical Commission of selection and designation as a 2005 Main Street City.
- City Council approved participation in the Texas Department of Transportation, Division of Aviation's Routine Airport Maintenance Program, a 50/50 percent matching grant available to provide minor maintenance projects at the airport in an amount of \$9,252.
- City Council approved participation in the Texas Department of Transportation, Division of Aviation's Capital Improvement Program, for a grant to provide engineering design services for a major airport expansion project in 2006.
- City Council authorized provision of water and wastewater services to the proposed detention center facility to be located on FM 350 South adjacent to the TDCJ facility.



The town was originally settled by a pioneer named Moses L. Choate, who settled in East Texas on a land grant. There were originally three proposed names for the county seat: Springfield, Swarthwout and Johnson's Bluff. Choate wanted the county seat at Springfield and offered 100 acres of land from his grant to the county under two conditions. First, the town's name would be changed to Livingston, which was his former home in Tennessee. Second, the town would be named the county seat. Both resulted after an election was held in June 1846.

On September 17, 1902 a petition was presented to County Judge J. Holhausen to request an incorporation election to be held in Livingston. The election was held on September 30. Election results were filed at the county courthouse reflecting the will of the people. Votes had been tallied as 67 for incorporation and 38 against. The City of Livingston began!

- Sam Gordon, City Manager since April 1986, announced his retirement to be effective March 31, 2005.

- Upon the request of the property owner, the City annexed 11,229 acres of land planned for commercial development and located at the southwest corner of US 190 West and FM 350 South.

- City Council approved submission of a grant for a sanitary sewer rehabilitation project along East Street to the Office of Rural Community Affairs in an amount of \$250,000 in grant funds and \$74,000 in local city funds.

- City Council and staff attended the annual Texas Municipal League conference in Corpus Christi with more than 3,000 officials from cities around the state.

- Completed the sewer line upgrade on Springhill Dr. by laying 580' of 6" sewer main and setting manholes, allowing the city to abandon the lift station that was installed by the developer many years ago.

- Nine water taps and nine sewer taps were installed for new service installation.

- Livingston Police Department received notice of receipt of federal Homeland Security grant funds in the amount of \$45,464 for fiscal year 2005.

- Concrete valley replaced to improve water flow at the intersection of Redbird and Mockingbird in Enchanted Forest.

- Parks and Recreation and Street Department personnel built lighted Christmas trees and deer to be displayed at the entrance to Pedigo Park.

- Installed new Trade Days billboard signs.

October

PUBLIC LIBRARY OPENS IN COURTHOUSE

The City's first public library was sponsored by the Study Club and the PTA. It was located in the jury room of the Polk County Courthouse and opened to patrons on **October 20, 1932**. Federal assistance came from the Works Progress Administration during the Depression years and the library was moved to another location in the courthouse by 1940.



Livingston's current location, Murphy Memorial Library, opened on March 23, 1969. The library currently has about 23,000 volumes and 9,000 registered customers.

LAKE LIVINGSTON DAM CONSTRUCTED IN 1966

Lake Livingston began as a joint venture between the City of Houston and the Trinity River Authority. Ground breaking took place in **November 1965**. Construction of the dam began in the spring of 1966.

Lake Livingston covers over 83,000 acres and contains up to 1,800,000 acre feet of water. The average depth of the lake is 23 feet, but there are places where the depth has been measured at 90 feet.



November 2004

Rain, rain and more rain! Heavy localized rainfall caused flooding along Long King Creek, putting a damper on Trade Days and other community events. But, with the holidays just around the corner, the City staff began preparations for a month full of festivities.

- New procedures and permit fees for building construction, inspections, plan review and subdivision development were drafted by the Community Development Coordinator and presented to City Council.
- The 2000 Edition International Plumbing, Mechanical, Fire and Fuel Gas Codes were adopted by City Council.
- Community Development staff hosted an informational meeting with developers, building contractors, electricians and plumbers to explain recommended new procedures and fees.
- City Council appointed Marilyn Sutton, City Secretary/Finance Officer, to be the next City Manager, effective April 1, 2005.
- Began installation of Christmas lighting displays at City Hall, Miss Effie's cottage, Murphy Memorial Library, Anniversary Park, Pedigo Park and pole-mounted decorations along Church and Washington Streets.
- Heavy localized rainfall caused flooding along Long King Creek, causing damage to adjacent businesses and Pedigo Park.



- Relocated a fire hydrant on Ogletree Drive in the hospital subdivision on the US 59 bypass.
- Installed 12 water taps and two sewer taps for new service.
- First Annual Lights for Leslie Lighting Ceremony was held at City Hall on November 23rd. Jackie Boykin, Leslie Boykin's mother, officially "turned on the lights" at City Hall to kick off the holiday season.

December 2004

Jingle Bell Fun Run, Christmas in the Park, Santa Claus Fly-In, Tour of Lights, Hometown Christmas... if you're looking for something to do in December, look no further. Livingston hosts a variety of festivities and special events throughout the holiday season.

- Main Street Advisory Board members appointed by City Council – Sam Gordon, Jim Wright, Dick Grant, Tony Taylor, Wanda Bobinger, M.J. Payne, Robin Babb, Debbie Cooper, Molly Anderson and Dee Dee West.
- The Eighth Annual Jingle Bell Run was held in Pedigo Park with more than 50 runners participating.
- Christmas in the Park was held with hay rides through Pedigo Park to see the lighted Christmas displays.
- The ALERT (Area Law Enforcement Response Team) program flew Santa Claus into Pedigo Park by helicopter to the delight of Trade Days shoppers.
- Bus tours provided area residents the opportunity to view the Tour of Lights decorating contest.
- Lights for Leslie Committee purchased a lighted igloo with sliding penguin display with funds contributed by the community. They donated the display to the City for use as part of Pedigo Park's Christmas decorations.





- Santa's sleigh constructed for the Hometown Christmas parade.
- Hometown Christmas lighted parade with more than 70 entries was enjoyed by a large crowd in downtown Livingston.
- Municipal Court Judge John Martin and LDP Officer Robert Alston participated in a mock courtroom trial as part of the Criminal Justice Class taught at Livingston High School.
- City personnel performed a walk-through of Choates Creek from the US 59 bypass east to Livingston High School with GPS and photo equipment to locate and record existing creek conditions.
- City staff gathered information on flood mitigation resources from various local, state and federal sources and met with a hydrologist from the National Weather Service about data-gathering and flood warning equipment.
- Laid 480' of 2" PVC water line on Coleman Street to replace an existing 1" galvanized steel water line.
- Installed a new sludge dewatering box at the wastewater treatment plant.
- Made three water taps for new service installations.
- Adopted new building permit fees, fire system permit fees and electric permit fees to be effective January 1, 2005.



SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE!

The footbridge shown here across Choates Creek on Houston Avenue was built in 1901. It was demolished by flood waters by the end of that same year.



APPOINTED OFFICIALS



Sam Gordon
City Manager



Marilyn Sutton
City Secretary
Finance Director



Connie Slocomb
City Attorney



John Martin
Municipal Court
Judge



Mack Coats
Municipal Court
Associate Judge



Jerry Marsh
Building Official

DEPARTMENT SUPERVISORS



Patricia Crawford
Utility Billing Supervisor



Priscilla Emrich
Librarian



Debbie Clack
Special Events/
Main Street Coordinator



Ben Buchanan
Community Development
Coordinator



Wayne Farmer
Electric Superintendent



Bill Haecker
Water & Wastewater
Superintendent



Hec Long
Street Superintendent



Dennis Clifton
Chief of Police



Corky Cochran
Fire Chief, LVFD



Mark Taylor
Fire Marshal/
Code Enforcement

Staff Photos



**Administrative/Utility
Billing Department**

From the left: Patricia Crauford, Cheryl Paul, Carla Dunning, Irene Nick, Julie Miler, Ellie Monteaux



Electric Department

From the left: Eric Barlow, Charles Chalker, Billy McPike, G.W. Farrar, James Smith, Dewayne Oates



Animal Control Officer

Butch Price

Departments



Library Staff

From the left: Nita Kuehn, Jerri Greene, Gwen Collier



Parks & Recreation/Trade Days

From the left: Juan Cuellar, Deryl Tompkins, Betty Overstreet, Alex Rodriguez, Toni Fuller, Stuart Thomas



Garage Department

From the left: Keith Foxworth, Nick Kirkpatrick



Municipal Court

From the left: Associate Judge Mack Coats, Court Clerk Sarah Milner, Judge John Martin



Street Department

From the left: Jason Britton, Jerry Cowen, Cody Marsh, Carlos Orosco, James Mitchell, Paul Baker



Water and Wastewater

From the left: Dario Ruiz, Charles Reynolds, Kent Williams, Scott Johnson, Bobby Wallace, Roger Adams, Kevin Saintes, Tim Smith, Andres Ojeda, Royce Newport



Police Department

Back row from the left: Chad Lilley, Kurt Riley, Chad Ward, Marty Drake, Scott Paske, Ken Bohnert; Front row from the left: Wesley Smith, Leon Middleton, Ronnie Bogany, Matt Parrish, Kevin Blackburn



**Livingston Police Department
Administrative/Communications Staff**

From the left: Barbara Thomas, Michelle Lilley, Terry Adkins, Sandy Bell, John Ricks



City of Livingston Employees Recognized



The 12th Annual City of Livingston employee appreciation and awards dinner was held on Friday, February 11, 2005 at Country Oaks Manor, with over 100 employees and spouses in attendance. The theme for the event was "The Fabulous 50s" complete with dance contests, hula hoop contests, yo-yo and bubble gum contests, poodle skirts, bobby socks and music from the decade.

Following a dinner featuring soda fountain items - hamburgers, hot dogs, french fries, onion rings and milk shakes - employee awards were presented by Mayor Ben R. Ogletree, Jr. and City Manager Sam Gordon in the following categories: Service Awards, Individual Safety Awards, Departmental Safety Awards, Individual Attendance Awards and Volunteer Awards.

THE FOLLOWING CITY OF LIVINGSTON EMPLOYEES EARNED AWARDS DURING 2004:

Roger Adams - Attendance and Safety Award
Eric Barlow - Attendance, Safety and Volunteer Award
Sandy Bell - Attendance and Volunteer Award
Kevin Blackburn - Volunteer Award
Ronnie Bogany - Attendance Award
Ken Bohnert - Safety Award
Jason Britton - Attendance and Safety Award
Charles Chalker - Safety Award
Dennis Clifton - Volunteer Award
Gwen Collier - Service Award - 20 years
Jerry Cowen - Safety Award
Patricia Crawford - Volunteer and Service Award - 20 years
Juan Cuellar - Attendance and Safety Award
Mike deVilleneuve - Safety Award
Marty Drake - Safety Award
Carla Dunning - Attendance and Volunteer Award
Keith Foxworth - Safety Award and Volunteer Award
Toni Fuller - Volunteer Award
Sam Gordon - Volunteer and Service Award - 20 years
Jerri Green - Service Award - 5 years
Bill Haecker - Volunteer Award
Scott Johnson - Safety Award
Nita Kuehn - Attendance Award
Michelle Lilley - Attendance and Volunteer Award

Hec Long - Volunteer Award
Cody Marsh - Safety and Service Award - 5 years
Billy McPike - Safety Award
Leon Middleton - Attendance and Safety Award
Julie Miller - Volunteer Award
Lewis Milner - Attendance and Safety Award
Sarah Milner - Volunteer Award
Ellie Monteaux - Volunteer Award
Royce Newport - Attendance and Safety Award
Irene Nicks - Volunteer Award
Dewayne Oates - Attendance, Safety, Volunteer and Service Award - 25 years

Carlos Orosco - Safety Award
Betty Overstreet - Volunteer Award
Matt Parrish - Safety Award
Scott Paske - Safety Award
Cheryl Paul - Attendance and Volunteer Award
Butch Price - Attendance, Safety, Volunteer and Service Award - 10 years

Mike Reeves - Safety Award
Alex Rodriguez - Service Award - 15 years
Dario Ruiz - Attendance and Safety Award
James Smith - Attendance Award and Safety Award
Tim Smith - Attendance and Safety Award
Marilyn Sutton - Volunteer and Service Award - 30 years
Mark Taylor - Volunteer Award
Barbara Thomas - Volunteer Award
Deryl Tompkins - Attendance and Safety Award
Bobby Wallace - Attendance and Safety Award
Chad Ward - Attendance Award and Safety Award

DEPARTMENTAL SAFETY AWARDS

In 2004, there were two departments that worked injury-free. These two departments worked the entire year without an on-the-job injury of any kind.

ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT: 8th year to win this award.

SEWER DEPARTMENT: 5th year to win this award.



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