

# Joining Forces: A Community United



Livingston 2005 Annual Report to the People

# The Mayor's Message

Dear Fellow Citizens:

Once again, it is my privilege to report to you regarding the operation of our city during the past fiscal year.

The City of Livingston has again shown a positive growth pattern during the last year. Each of the economic indicators that we monitor have shown a healthy increase from the year 2003-2004, which is indicative of the overall health of the city. Specific figures are shown on the Finance page of this report.

Growth is apparent both in the public and private sectors of our economy. Some examples include:

- The completion of our multi-year, multi-million dollar street improvement project.
- The completion of the planning phase and start of the construction phase of our \$1.4 million airport improvement project. This is being done with 90 percent State and Federal assistance and 10 percent local funds.
- The groundbreaking and start of construction of the Memorial Medical Center – Livingston's very large expansion program. This \$20-30 million investment in our local medical facilities has been made possible by a continued increase in the number of doctors practicing in Livingston and in the number of patients electing to have their medical needs met locally.
- Major investments in the financial and retail sectors of our economy, including:
  - A new main office building for First National Bank and a new Tractor Supply store, both located on Highway 190 West.
  - A major renovation of a local shopping center, including the upgrading of the HEB grocery store, the addition of an HEB service station, the addition of a pizza outlet, and the addition of a UPS Store.
  - The construction of a Hampton Inn and Suites in the Southpoint Center on U.S. Highway 59 South.

Despite all of these positive projects, the one event that most influenced our city during the past year was Hurricane Rita. In late September, this severe hurricane hit the Gulf Coast and tracked northward, heavily damaging most of the Southeast Texas area, including Livingston and Polk County.

To complicate the local situation, approximately 8,000 evacuees fleeing the Gulf Coast ahead of the storm were stranded in the Livingston area. This was a completely unplanned and surprise happening since our area was not a hub shelter in any State or Federal evacuation plan.

Without any advance plan to do so, and with nothing in terms of pre-positioned manpower, supplies, food, water and other necessities, our local and county governments, our local schools and churches, our law enforcement agencies, our fire departments and many of our local

citizens pitched in and did whatever was necessary to get these thousands of people under shelter and cared for during the hurricane and its aftermath, which lasted for several days after the storm abated.

This was all done during a period of great personal stress and actual danger for our local citizens, many of whom put their own family concerns and personal damage aside to work for the good of our community.

Although there was tremendous damage to property, I am very proud that there was not storm-related loss of life in our community.

During the hurricane, the City administrators, staff and employees put in countless hours maintaining as was best possible the services and functions of our City government. Although damaged, all of our City utilities, with the exception of electricity, continued to function. In an almost unbelievable effort by our electric crew, electricity was restored to a good part of our service area early Monday following the passage of the hurricane early Saturday morning.

Our Livingston Volunteer Fire Department answered emergency calls, assisted in rendering aid and clearing debris, helped distribute food, water and supplies, and, when local media communications failed, went house-to-house with emergency instruction handbills.

Although exhausted by working heavy traffic loads for two days prior to the hurricane, and without sufficient manpower to answer the needs of a sudden increase of thousands of displaced evacuees, our Livingston Police Department somehow found the strength to do "whatever it took" to maintain public safety and law and order during the emergency.

This report is given from the perspective of the City of Livingston. However, I should add that the group of public officials and emergency workers directed through Polk County's Emergency Operations Center performed extremely well and worked just as hard to meet the emergency needs of the part of our community lying outside the responsibility of the City.

I am extremely proud to have been associated with all of these fine people during this extraordinary effort and, on behalf of our citizens and the City Council, would like to take this opportunity to once again say, "Well Done!"



Ben R. Ogletree, Jr.  
Mayor



Ben R. Ogletree, Jr.  
Mayor

## 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 p.m.

Special Meetings: Called by Mayor



Standing from left to right: Gene Bush, Mayor Pro-tem; Clarke Evans, Councilmember; and Ray Luna, Councilmember; Seated from left to right: Ray Hill, Councilmember; Ben R. Ogletree, Jr., Mayor; and Judy Cochran, Councilmember



From the left: Patricia Crawford, Julie Miller, Carla Dunning and Cheryl Paul

2005 was a year of change in the administration office. With the retirement of Sam Gordon in March and the addition of two new members to City Council in May, City staff joined forces to ensure a smooth transition for everyone. Before, during and after Hurricane Rita, the staff provided excellent customer service to residents by manning phone lines 24 hours a day to ensure information was communicated efficiently.

## Administrative & Utility Billing



Seated from the left: Marilyn Sutton, City Manager/Finance Officer and Gaffney Phillips, City Attorney/Asst to the City Manager. Standing from left to right: Irene Nicks, City Secretary/Human Resource Specialist and Ellie Monteaux, Accounts Payable, Purchasing and Payroll Clerk



Sam Gordon is honored by the City prior to his retirement.

### HIGHLIGHTS:

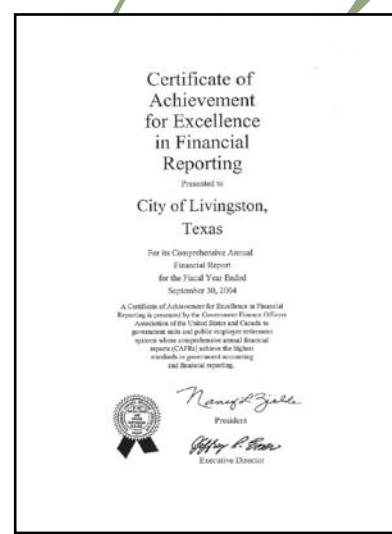
- City Council approved an increase of hotel occupancy tax funding to the Livingston-Polk County Chamber of Commerce from \$15,000 annually to \$30,000 annually for increased tourism and promotional activities.
- City Council adopted a resolution supporting the creation of the Lower Trinity Groundwater Conservation District and appointed Aidney Reeves to the Board of Directors.
- At the request of property owners, the City annexed 4.68 acres of land adjacent to FM 350 North and US 190 West.
- City staff hosted a retirement reception for Sam Gordon, City Manager, who retired on 3/31/05 after more than 20 years of service to the community.
- Marilyn Sutton was appointed City Manager/Finance Officer by the City Council, effective 4/1/05.
- Irene Nicks was appointed City Secretary by the City Council, effective 4/1/05.
- Gaffney Phillips was appointed City Attorney/Assistant to the City Manager by the City Council on 7/21/05.
- The City participated in the Polk County Industrial and Economic Development Corporation for the 2005 year to partner with other local entities to recruit and attract new businesses to our community.
- A General Election was held in May 2005 for the purpose of electing three City Councilmembers. Incumbent Clarke Evans was re-elected and Councilmembers Judy Cochran and Ray Luna were elected to serve two year terms from 2005-2007.
- City Councilmembers Judy Cochran and Ray Luna attended the Texas Municipal League training conference for newly-elected city officials.
- Gene Bush was elected Mayor Pro-tem for the 2005-2006 term.
- Dr. Elias Kanaan was appointed by the City Council to serve as Health Officer for the City for the 2005-2007 term.
- A Community Survey was sent to 2,300 residents to determine the importance and satisfaction of 70 service categories, with 353 citizens responding. This was the first step in adopting a new five-year strategic plan for our community.

► Dr. Bill Watson receives a resolution of appreciation from Mayor Ben Ogletree, Jr. for his 14 years of service on the City Council.



For the 16th year in a row, the Finance Department received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association for the fiscal year ending 9/30/04.

# Finance Department



ECONOMIC INDICATOR	2003-2004	2004-2005	Percentage Change
Sales Tax Revenue	\$2,324,945	\$2,544,289	9.4%
Electric Sales - KWh	78,477,670	81,073,978	3.3%
Water Sales - Gallons	613,699,000	639,102,000	4.1%
Hotel Occupancy Tax	\$136,563	\$131,303	- 3.9%
Total Bank Deposits	\$407,495,224	\$422,855,992	3.8%

## City of Livingston, Texas

Revenues and Expenditures by Department for the Year Ending 9/30/05

REVENUES*	
Property Tax	\$0
Sales Tax	\$2,544,289
Hotel Occupancy Tax	\$131,303
Gross Receipts Tax	\$136,979
Administrative Department	\$143,555
Sanitation Department	\$716,199
Fire Department	\$29,981
Police Department	\$293,290
Street Department	\$89,833
Parks & Recreation	\$276,146
Library Department	\$26,027
Trade Days Department	\$125,736
Electric Department	\$7,975,303
Water Department	\$1,650,187
Sewer Department	\$1,131,614
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$15,270,442</b>

EXPENDITURES*	
Administrative Department	\$367,117
Sanitation Department	\$525,099
Fire Department	\$272,363
Police Department	\$1,100,949
Street Department	\$411,336
Parks & Recreation	\$378,263
Trade Days Department	\$241,017
Library Department	\$217,896
Garage Department	\$131,848
Electric Department	\$7,537,965
Water Department	\$1,465,415
Sewer Department	\$393,881
Capital Improvements	\$1,921,167
Debt Service	\$921,833
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$15,886,149</b>

\*Above figures are audited amounts. Expenses include bond funds for street improvement project.

When it comes to bringing people together, the Murphy Memorial Library does its fair share! In 2005, the library staff registered 856 new customers and renewed 1,201 cards. With the help of various donations and grants, the library continues to add new materials, making it a true community resource.

# Murphy Memorial Library



Priscilla Emrich  
Librarian



From the left: Jerri Greene, Nita Kuehn,  
Gwen Collier and Sabrina Jackson

## HIGHLIGHTS:

- In 2005, a total of 36,989 customers entered the library.
- A total of 75,129 items were checked out, 16,179 of which were children's books.
- Library staff fielded 2,932 reference questions.
- The library added 2,617 items to its collection, including a new collection of music CDs.
- Computer usage reached 6,881 hours by 8,572 customers.
- The library received a grant of \$3,000 from the Friends of the Library, which was used to purchase large-print books and audio books.
- A grant of \$2,456 from the State's Loan Star Libraries program was used to purchase Spanish language and bilingual materials as well as graphic novels. Part of this grant also paid for the redesign and two years maintenance of our library's Web site, which you can view at [www.murphymemlib.org](http://www.murphymemlib.org).
- Two new public use computers were obtained through the Texas State Library and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's matching grant.
- The library hosted a "Food for Fines" drive, which cleared the fines of 46 customers totaling \$942.15. Approximately 30 boxes of collected food were donated to the Polk County Mission Center as a result of the drive.
- A total of 249 children participated in the 2005 "Go Wild... Read!" summer reading club. Story times were held each week during June and July, and children were encouraged to read at home on their own. Some 100 children read five or more books, with 22 of those reading 25 books or more.



Children in the community come together for fun and education at Murphy Memorial Library.

 Murphy Memorial Library receives a new parking lot.

Before, during and after Hurricane Rita, Livingston's Police Department assisted in the evacuation of the Gulf Coast counties in addition to responding to calls for service. These public safety employees distributed emergency relief items (food, ice and water) to citizens who were unable to obtain these essentials after the storm. The department also helped neighboring cities and counties through the delivery and set up of supplies and equipment.



From the left (standing): Chad Lilley, Matt Parrish, Ken Bohnert, Marty Drake and Scott Paske. From the left (seated): Leon Middleton, Caran Coward, Mike deVilleneuve, Kevin Blackburn, Chad Ward

# Police Department

## HIGHLIGHTS:

- The City employed an additional police officer for greater patrol coverage and improved response to calls for service.
- The department purchased a new patrol car to replace an older patrol unit that will be taken out of service.
- A new replacement Animal Control pickup truck was purchased.
- Lighter, more comfortable and cooler bullet-proof vests were purchased with grant funds to replace the older models.
- Police Department officers (in conjunction with the Polk County Peace Officers Association) competed in a basketball competition with the Livingston Special Olympics Team. The Law Enforcement team once again was defeated by the Special Olympics team.
- Meetings with citizens of the community were held to better address response and concerns of criminal activity in neighborhoods.
- Police Department school-based police officers were invited to speak before Region 6 school administrators in Huntsville, Texas regarding LISD's Emergency Response Plan and the policing of LISD campuses.
- The departments' lighted castle-themed float in the annual Hometown Christmas parade placed first in its division.
- Livingston Police Department personnel organized the Sixth Annual Polk County Peace Officers Law Enforcement Aid Fund Fishing Tournament.
- The Police Department purchased and installed an upgraded computer system and software, including Computer Aided Dispatch software that enables more efficient tracking of calls for service.
- The department participated in the Livingston High School College and Career Night and also provided crime prevention programs for various local businesses.
- Through grant funding from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the department purchased a new radio system (including a repeater, mobile radios for patrol cars and hand-held radios), portable computer equipment for the Emergency Operations Center and digital cameras.



Dennis Clifton  
Chief of Police



Telecommunications Staff from the left (standing): Terry Adkins, Lanell Puckett, Kaleb Barker and Nikki Allison. Seated: Sandy Bell



Administrative Staff from the left: Michelle Lilley, Records Clerk; and Barbara Thomas, Administrative Assistant and Telecommunications Supervisor



Butch Price  
Animal Control Officer



Livingston Volunteer Fire Department.

## Livingston Volunteer Fire Department



*The Livingston Volunteer Fire Department presents a plaque of appreciation to Sam Gordon for his years of support to the department.*



*Firefighters teach prevention to children throughout the year.*

One of the most important functions of a firefighter is preventing a fire before it happens. This year, our volunteer fire department focused on educating the community, so that we will all be better stewards of our own property, as well as others'.

### HIGHLIGHTS:

- In 2005, the fire department responded to 520 fire calls.
- Fire prevention programs were presented to almost 800 adults and students.
- Through a joint program with the Polk County Fire Marshal, the department received fire prevention robots for educational programs for the youth of the community.
- The department received a grant from the Texas Forest Service for partial funding of a new pumper/tanker.
- Once again the 26th annual firefighting training school was a huge success, drawing more than 450 students and instructors from around the state who participated in both classroom training and firefighting demonstration projects.
- Local volunteer firefighters attended training on Emergency Vehicle Operations, Terrorism Awareness, Regional Pipeline Emergency Response and Disaster Response.
- The department participated in an Insurance Services Organization (ISO) evaluation pilot program funded by the Soil Water Conservation District.
- Volunteer firefighters manned the fire station around the clock for 5 days during the Hurricane Rita disaster and recovery efforts.



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

### Municipal Court Statistics

**2005**

Traffic Violations	1,353
Criminal Violations	1,328
Other Violations	36
Total Violations	2,717
Total Fines & Fees Collected	\$198,491

## Livingston Municipal Court

Community safety is a growing concern. Livingston's Municipal Court makes sure that anyone who compromises that safety is held responsible. The court conducts hearings and trials, collects fines, issues warrants of arrest and performs magistrate duties for various types of felony and misdemeanor violations.

At the end of the day, the City wants Livingston to be a place the community can be proud to call home. Each year, we spearhead various projects in hopes of preserving our history, improving our quality of life and attracting others to visit and move to our area.



Livingston's Memorial Flag Program honors military personnel.

# Community Development

## HIGHLIGHTS:

- City crews placed approximately 150 US flags along Church and Washington Streets on patriotic holidays as part of the Memorial Flag project. This project, a joint effort between First National Bank and the City, pays tribute to all US military personnel, past and present, who have given their lives for our country.
- In an effort to improve the platting process for property owners and developers, minor plat approval procedures were implemented to allow City staff to handle minor plats instead of requiring City Council action.
- The City Council adopted a revised nuisance ordinance, junked and abandoned vehicle ordinance and dilapidated building ordinance in July 2005 to remove nuisances and eyesores in an effort to beautify the community.
- More than 38 dilapidated building projects and 61 junk, high grass and abandoned vehicle projects were processed by the Code Enforcement office from July through December. A total of 53 of these complaints have been handled through the voluntary cooperation of the property owners.
- Livingston broke ground on a new Habitat for Humanity project, Cochran's Crossing, a joint public/private low-income housing development project located between Beatty and Bluebird Streets and North and West Streets in the northwest section of the city. Preliminary plans are for four houses to be built off Beatty Street as well as necessary street and utility infrastructure.
- The City Council approved a 180-day moratorium on the installation of new off-premise signs (billboards) and began development of a new sign ordinance in November.
- Livingston's first community-wide clean-up was held in October at Pedigo Park for residents to bring items for disposal at no charge.
- Dedication and historical marker placement ceremonies were held at the Greenfield Cemetery, located on the US 59 bypass, and at the Forest Hill Cemetery, located on South Washington. Texas Historical Commission markers were unveiled at each location detailing the history of the cemetery.
- The old municipal garage on South Houston was demolished by City crews and clean-up of the site will continue with grass seeding and other site improvements.



Ben Buchanan  
Community Development  
Coordinator



Mark Taylor  
Fire Marshal/Code Enforcement



Historical markers were placed at Greenfield and Forest Hill Cemeteries.



Throughout 2005, Livingston continued to experience considerable growth. The construction of the new Hampton Inn, the expansion of the hospital, new medical office facilities and various renovation projects around town are all indicators of a strong economic community.

## *Economic Development*



*Jerry Marsh  
Building Official*



*New home construction in The Retreat.*



*First National Bank's new facility on US 190.*

### **BUILDING PERMIT RECAP – 2005**

Number of permits	<b>114</b>
New single family units	<b>26 permits @ \$1,401,288</b>
Additions to single family units	<b>13 permits @ \$121,922</b>
New multi-family units	<b>0</b>
Additions to multi-family units	<b>1 permit @ \$40,940</b>
New commercial	<b>19 permits @ \$4,458,952</b>
Additions to commercial	<b>19 permits @ \$1,131,277</b>
Sign permits	<b>22 permits @ \$126,368</b>
Demolition permits	<b>6</b>
House moving permits	<b>2</b>
Driveway permits	<b>5</b>
Fire sprinkler systems	<b>1</b>
Total Construction Value for 2005	<b>\$7,280,747</b>



*HEB renovates its facility and adds a gas station.*



*Rendering of the \$30 million expansion program  
at Memorial Medical Center.*

One of the things 2005 taught our city is that in challenging times, our staff rises to the occasion. This is especially true of our Electric Department. These dedicated individuals replaced 15 poles, 15 transformers and 4-5 miles of downed electric lines as a result of the storm. Within 36 hours of power loss, 60 percent of the community had electrical service restored; the balance of service was restored within seven days of power loss.



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

## Electric Department



Downed electric lines from Hurricane Rita.

### HIGHLIGHTS:

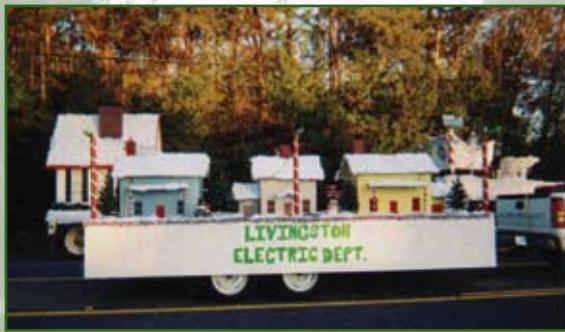
- Electric service was extended and installed to serve new construction projects, including the Hampton Inn, new homes in The Retreat and other area subdivisions.
- The department received a refund of excess revenues from the Sam Rayburn Municipal Power Agency (SRMPA), the city's electrical power provider, in the amount of \$938,177, to offset the increased wholesale cost of power and eliminate the need for increased electric rates.
- Members of the department participated in College and Career Night at Livingston High School to inform high school students of career opportunities in public power.
- Department staff earned a safety award for working without an on-the-job injury in 2005.



Wayne Farmer  
Electric Superintendent



Crews repair damage to baseball and softball field lighting after Hurricane Rita.



The Electric Department shows their holiday spirit in the annual Hometown Christmas parade.



From the left: Dario Ruiz, George Pichardo, Tim Smith, Royce Newport, Scott Johnson, Bobby Wallace, John Young, Kent Williams, Roger Adams and Andres Ojeda

Although each department has its own set of duties and responsibilities, we find that we have lots of opportunities to work together toward a common goal. In 2005, our Water and Wastewater Department assisted the Street Department in the West Street upgrade by relocating water mains, sewer mains, water services and sewer services.

## Water & Wastewater Department



Bill Haecker  
Water and Wastewater Superintendent

### HIGHLIGHTS:

- The City adopted a Water Conservation Plan as required by the Texas Commission on Environment Quality.
- The water/wastewater crew purchased a trencher in the amount of \$28,352.
- The sewer lift station on FM 350 South was upgraded to accommodate a new detention facility, which included the installation of a 100 KV backup generator and additional 25 HP pump as well as the rewiring of all electrical components to a 440 volt system.
- The department upgraded 1,100 linear feet of 2" galvanized steel water line to a 6" PVC water line from West Street to Colita Street.
- In addition, crews upgraded a 2" galvanized water line to a 3" PVC water line from Sam Houston Electric Cooperative west 1,260 linear feet.
- Crews replaced 86 water services, 20 sewer services, 7 fire hydrants and 4 sanitary sewer manholes in various parts of town.
- Department staff extended a 6" sewer line from the lift station on US 190 West to the LVFD fireman's training field and installed 640 feet of 6" PVC sewer main and a manhole.
- The City abandoned 6,200 feet of antiquated 2" water line in various parts of town.
- The department worked diligently to eliminate many sources of storm water inflow and infiltration into our sanitary sewer system in an effort to comply with Texas Commission on Environmental Quality requirements.



Upgrades were made to the sewer lift station on FM 350 South.

▲  
Crews upgrade water and wastewater services on West Street.



## Garage Department

Livingston's Garage Department maintains more than 50 vehicles and 73 pieces of equipment for all city departments, including the Livingston Volunteer Fire Department vehicles and equipment. In 2005, the department earned a safety award for working without an on-the-job injury for the entire year.



Garage Crew from the left:  
Kelly Smith and Keith Foxworth

Each year, various community organizations come together to work with our Parks and Recreation Department to plan and implement our special events.

# Parks & Recreation Department

## SPECIAL EVENTS:

- Battle for Long King Creek - Civil War Reenactment at Pedigo Park
- Easter Eggstravaganza with over 18,000 eggs at Pedigo Park
- KidFish - youth fishing tournament with catfish stocked in the pond at Pedigo Park
- Spring Outdoor Expo - 4th annual show with local merchants displaying RVs, campers, sports equipment, lawn and garden equipment
- Volunteer Appreciation Dinner - recognition dinner to express appreciation to the volunteers who help with community special events
- Sonic 50's Swim Party and Polar Bear Swim Party at Matthews Park Pool
- 4th of July parade and FunFest in downtown Livingston
- Christmas Lighting Ceremony to kick off the holiday season
- Jingle Bell Run, Christmas in the Park, Hometown Christmas, Lighted Christmas Parade and Tour of Lights Bus Tours

## OTHER PROJECTS:

- Engineering and preliminary design began on improvements at the Livingston Municipal Airport at an estimated project cost of \$1,400,000.
- With the closing of Mill Ridge Golf Course in September 2005, the City leased its 9-hole golf course to an individual who is operating it as Livingston Golf Course.
- New playground equipment, including a climbing wall and spiral play scape at Matthews Park was installed.
- The tennis courts at Matthews Park were resurfaced.
- The department spearheaded a beautification improvement project at Anniversary Park south of Church Street, which included a concrete retaining wall and picnic stations.
- Crews installed materials at the Little League ballpark on SH 146 South for the expansion of parking areas and entrance road improvements.
- Decorative pipe fencing was constructed and installed at Pedigo Park near the entrance to the Trade Days area.
- Department staff installed a water mister along the jogging trail at Matthews Park. This mister was donated by the Rotary Club.



From the left: Deryl Tompkins, Betty Overstreet, Cody Marsh, Barry Brasher, Toni Fuller, Alex Rodriguez, Frank Cibulka and Juan Cuellar



Debbie Clack  
Special Events/Main Street Manager

## TRADE DAYS:

- Trade Days completed its 6th year of operations with an average of 152 vendors attending each show in 2005.
- Crews installed roll-up doors at the north end of Pavilions A and B for inclement weather protection.
- Advertising efforts attracted vendors from Livingston to Florida, Alabama, Missouri, Minnesota, New York, Indiana, Iowa, Wisconsin, North Carolina, South Dakota and California.



Water mister located on the jogging trail at Matthews Park.



*The First Lady's Tour, held in March 2005, was the official kick-off to Livingston's Main Street Program. First Lady of Texas Anita Perry attended the ceremony and toured the downtown historic district. The success of this event was just a sign of great things to come for our downtown area.*



*Main Street Board from the left: Molly Anderson, Sam Gordon, Debbie Cooper, Tony Taylor, Debbie Clack, Robin Babb, Dee Dee West, Jim Wright, Wanda Bobinger and Richard (Dick) Grant*



*Building/business owner reception held at the Courthouse rotunda.*

## *Main Street*

### **HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Manager and Board Members attended Main Street training in Austin in January 2005.
- The City leased space and staffed the Main Street office on North Washington in the downtown business district.
- Main Street hosted the 2005 May Day Art Walk in Anniversary Park with arts and crafts vendors participating.
- The Red, White and Blue Parade and Kid Fun Fest were held in downtown Livingston on the 4th of July at Anniversary Park.
- Main Street hosted a building/business owner reception in the Courthouse rotunda to inform the owners of the upcoming resource team visit and the services available to them through the Main Street program.
- Main Street welcomed the Resource Team from Austin, a group of professionals who spent three full days in Livingston evaluating the community's needs, obstacles and potential for downtown revitalization.
- Short- and long-term recommendations were drafted for the redevelopment of downtown Livingston.



*A rendering of the Pedigo block was unveiled by First Lady of Texas Anita Perry at the First Lady's Tour.*

*May Day Art Walk in Anniversary Park. ►*

The Street Department completed the West Street improvement project, a significant accomplishment in that the work was performed by City crews rather than a private contractor. In addition, the department worked to remove storm debris from City streets within 24 hours of Hurricane Rita.

# Street Department

## HIGHLIGHTS:

- A 32' concrete street with curb and gutter and drainage system was constructed on West Street between Beatty and Colita.
- Seal coating was applied to First, Second and Bernard Streets, south of Church Street.
- Improvements were made to Blue Ridge, Valley Drive and HollyHill Streets in the Skyview subdivision.
- The department initiated a curb and gutter improvement plan to increase and improve the flow of water on streets in various parts of town.
- The City ditch maintenance program continued in various parts of town.
- Following Hurricane Rita, department staff burned vegetative debris at Pedigo Park, with the approval of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.
- A storm drain and valley gutter was installed on Fair Street and a valley gutter was poured on Post Oak Street to improve drainage in the Oak Forest subdivision.
- Department staff worked with TxDOT crews to clear debris from under bridges at Choates Creek crossings on North Houston and North Washington.
- Crews installed five new 8' x 10' City Pride welcome signs at the entrances to Livingston on US 190 East and West, Business 59 North and South, and SH 146 South with local civic organization logos.
- The department sold used patching equipment and reclaimed asphalt material, which was removed from City streets during the major renovation project.
- In the aftermath of Hurricane Rita, crews removed trees, limbs and debris from all city streets and worked to clean up city parks and recreational facilities.
- Additionally, the department contracted with the US Army Corps of Engineers for debris removal.
- The department worked with TxDOT to widen the turning radius of the curb and re-stripe the intersection of Garner Street and South Washington to allow for improved traffic flow.



Street Crew from the left: George Kirkpatrick, Jerry Cowen, Humberto Garcia, Jason Britton, Carlos Orosco and Paul Baker



Hec Long  
Street Superintendent



West Street improvement project.



Street Crew works to remove debris left by Hurricane Rita.



Vegetative debris from Hurricane Rita was collected and hauled to Pedigo Park under contract with the US Army Corps of Engineers.

# Personnel



The 13th annual City of Livingston employee appreciation and awards dinner was held on Friday, February 4th, 2006, at Camp Cho-Yeh, with over 125 employees and spouses in attendance. The football-themed dinner included football games and contests, with employees and spouses dressed in jerseys or t-shirts of their favorite college or professional football team.

Employee awards were presented by Mayor Ben R. Ogletree, Jr. and City Manager Marilyn Sutton in the following categories: Service Awards, Individual Safety Awards, Departmental Safety Awards, Individual Attendance Awards, Volunteer Awards, and Above and Beyond Awards in recognition of community service during Hurricane Rita.



## EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION:

Roger Adams – Attendance, Safety and Above and Beyond Award  
Terry Adkins – Service (5 years) and Above and Beyond Award  
Nikki Allison – Above and Beyond Award  
Paul Baker – Service (5 years), Attendance, Safety and Above and Beyond Award  
Kaleb Barker – Above and Beyond Award  
Eric Barlow – Attendance, Safety and Above and Beyond Award  
Sandy Bell – Service (5 years), Attendance, Volunteer and Above and Beyond Award  
Kevin Blackburn – Above and Beyond Award  
Ronnie Bogany – Attendance, Safety and Above and Beyond Award  
Ken Bohnert – Safety and Above and Beyond Award  
Barry Brasher – Above and Beyond Award  
Jason Britton – Safety and Above and Beyond Award  
Ben Buchanan – Volunteer and Above and Beyond Award  
Charles Chalker – Service (15 years), Attendance, Safety and Above and Beyond Award  
Frank Cibulka – Above and Beyond Award  
Debbie Clack – Above and Beyond Award  
Dennis Clifton – Volunteer and Above and Beyond Award  
Corky Cochran – Volunteer and Above and Beyond Award  
Gwen Collier – Above and Beyond Award  
Caran Coward – Above and Beyond Award  
Jerry Cowen – Safety and Above and Beyond Award  
Patricia Crawford – Volunteer and Above and Beyond Award  
Juan Cuellar – Safety and Above and Beyond Award  
Mike deVilleneuve – Service Award (30 years)  
Marty Drake – Safety and Above and Beyond Award  
Carla Dunning – Volunteer and Above and Beyond Award  
Priscilla Emrich – Service (20 years) and Above and Beyond Award  
Wayne Farmer – Service (40 years) and Above and Beyond Award  
G.W. Farrar – Attendance, Safety and Above and Beyond Award  
Keith Foxworth – Volunteer and Above and Beyond Award  
Toni Fuller – Volunteer and Above and Beyond Award  
Jerry Green – Above and Beyond Award  
Bill Haecker – Volunteer and Above and Beyond Award  
Scott Johnson – Safety and Above and Beyond Award  
Nita Kuehn – Volunteer and Above and Beyond Award  
Chad Lilley – Safety and Above and Beyond Award  
Michelle Lilley – Volunteer and Above and Beyond Award  
Thomas Logan – Above and Beyond Award  
Hec Long – Service (5 years), Volunteer and Above and Beyond Award  
Cody Marsh – Safety and Above and Beyond Award

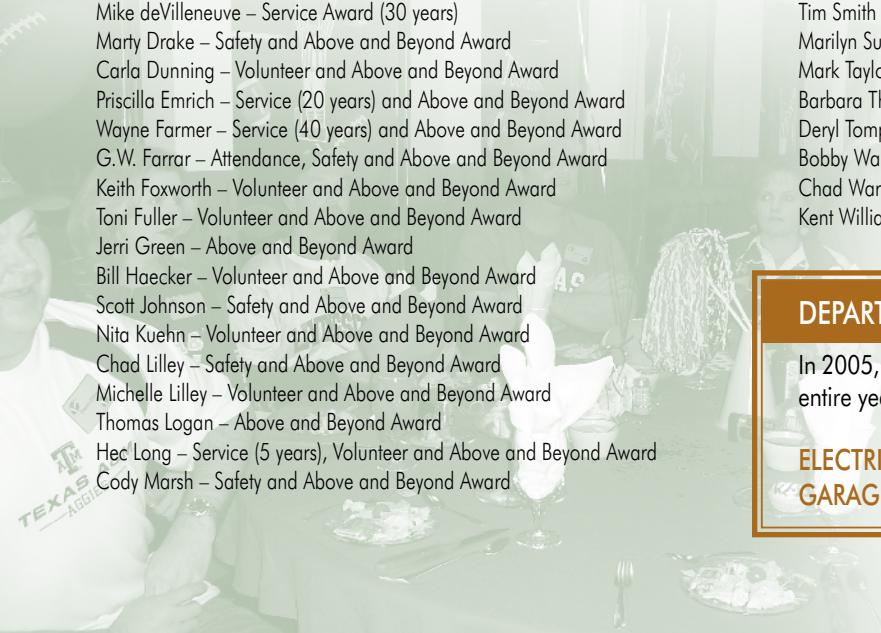
Billy McPike – Safety and Above and Beyond Award  
Leon Middleton – Attendance, Safety and Above and Beyond Award  
Julie Miller – Attendance, Volunteer and Above and Beyond Award  
Lewis Milner – Attendance, Safety and Above and Beyond Award  
Sarah Milner – Volunteer and Above and Beyond Award  
Ellie Monteaux – Service (5 years), Volunteer and Above and Beyond Award  
Royce Newport – Attendance, Safety and Above and Beyond Award  
Irene Nicks – Service (20 years), Volunteer and Above and Beyond Award  
Dewayne Oates – Safety and Above and Beyond Award  
Andres Ojeda – Above and Beyond Award  
Carlos Orosco – Service (5 years) and Above and Beyond Award  
Betty Overstreet – Attendance, Volunteer and Above and Beyond Award  
Matt Parrish – Safety and Above and Beyond Award  
Scott Paske – Safety and Above and Beyond Award  
Cheryl Paul – Attendance, Volunteer and Above and Beyond Award  
Gaffney Phillips – Volunteer and Above and Beyond Award  
George Pichardo – Above and Beyond Award  
Butch Price – Safety and Above and Beyond Award  
Kurt Riley – Safety and Above and Beyond Award  
Alex Rodriguez – Above and Beyond Award  
Dario Ruiz – Service (5 years) and Above and Beyond Award  
James Smith – Attendance, Safety and Above and Beyond Award  
Kelly Smith – Above and Beyond Award  
Tim Smith – Attendance, Safety and Above and Beyond Award  
Marilyn Sutton – Volunteer and Above and Beyond Award  
Mark Taylor – Volunteer and Above and Beyond Award  
Barbara Thomas – Above and Beyond Award  
Deryl Tompkins – Above and Beyond Award  
Bobby Wallace – Attendance, Safety and Above and Beyond Award  
Chad Ward – Safety and Above and Beyond Award  
Kent Williams – Safety and Above and Beyond Award

## DEPARTMENTAL SAFETY AWARDS

In 2005, two departments worked injury-free. These departments worked the entire year without an on-the-job injury or vehicular accident of any kind.

**ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT: 9th year to win this award**

**GARAGE DEPARTMENT: 9th year to win this award**





**City of Livingston**  
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