

Rosenberg RECORD

Spring 2015



Spring is in the air

A Queen butterfly lights on Fall Asters at Seabourne Creek Nature Park.

Photo courtesy of Wayne Poorman, Coastal Prairie Chapter Texas Master Naturalists.

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MISSION STATEMENT

To anticipate community needs and deliver exceptional service; and to cultivate an enhanced quality of life through leadership, innovation, and cooperative partnerships.

CITY COUNCIL

Mayor: Vincent M. Morales, Jr.
 At Large 1: William T. "Bill" Benton
 At Large 2: Cynthia McConathy
 District 1: Jimmie J. Peña
 District 2: Susan Euton
 District 3: Dwayne Grigar
 District 4: Amanda J. Barta

City Council meets regularly in public session the first, third, and fourth Tuesday of each month. Check the website for times, agenda materials, etc.

ABOUT THE COVER:



The Coastal Prairie Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists partners with the City and the Rosenberg Development

Corporation to make Seabourne Creek Nature Park a premier site for outdoor enjoyment and education.

For more information on the Chapter and their work, visit: txmn.org/coastal.

PUBLICATION COMMENTS

are welcomed via email at communications@ci.rosenberg.tx.us, or phone at 832.595.3301 (ask for Communications).



A Note from the City Manager

The City is committed to engaging individuals that live, work, play and learn in Rosenberg each day. This inaugural issue of the Rosenberg Record marks the City's first direct mail piece with broadened distribution beyond our utility customers. It is our hope that the contents contained in this quarterly piece are informative, useful and educational, and that they offer insight into Rosenberg's government and governance.

As our community grows, it becomes increasingly important to forge bonds amongst our diverse businesses and residents, and to create a unified image and sense of pride in Rosenberg, all the while holding fast to what it is that makes us unique. Through the Rosenberg Record, we hope to build a foundation to encourage just that.

The Rosenberg Record is designed to report on key strategic initiatives and projects, as well as financial, economic, and development indicators that affect our City, in an effort to be as transparent as possible, and to provide the information necessary to foster an informed and interested public. In addition to the Rosenberg Record, you can find day-to-day news and happenings by visiting our City website, www.CityofRosenberg.com, or following the City on Twitter @RbergTxGov.

Although the growth we've seen is positive in terms of economic stability and diversification, it also presents challenges in building a cohesive community in terms of identity, connected services and quality of life. As with any rapid growth community, we are experiencing growing pains associated with playing catch-up on many items, while at the same time, being challenged to get far enough ahead to effectively drive development.

In addition to providing core services such as water, police, and fire, perhaps our most important role as a municipality is to facilitate the development of a collective vision for our community's future, and to work tirelessly to bring this to fruition. To these ends, we are working through intensive planning to chart how the City will work systematically toward the desired vision as we continue to build out and grow.

We welcome your comments and feedback as we work to serve Rosenberg and provide top notch public services.

Robert Gracia
City Manager

Rosenberg BY THE NUMBERS

Rosenberg is at the geographic and logistic heart of Fort Bend County. We've experienced phenomenal growth over the course of the last decade, thanks to our business-friendly atmosphere, strategic location, convenient access, and superb quality of life.

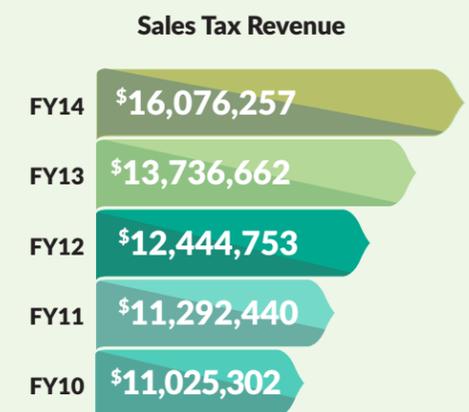
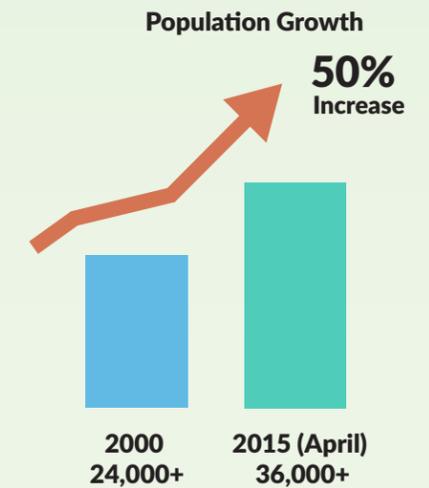
The City encompasses approximately 108 square miles – over 37 of which are within our Corporate (City) Limits. Approximately 63% of this land is undeveloped. This means that the City has much more room to grow – providing a boost for the local housing and development market, and a challenge for the provision of infrastructure and services. Over the last several years, the City has worked to raise the bar for the quality of development in Rosenberg and our Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ), including higher lot size standards and open space requirements.

The City's population has exploded since 2000, growing from just over 24,000 to an estimated 36,078 as of April 1 of this year. In 2014 Rosenberg saw 775 new housing starts, and nearly 1,400 newly platted residential lots in our City Limits and ETJ. Although there is talk in the region about a potential softening of the housing market, we have yet to see it reflected in development data. In the first quarter of 2015 alone, Rosenberg has experienced 222 housing starts, nearly half of which were in the City Limits, up from 183 in 2014.

Some of the factors influencing Rosenberg's residential growth are the build-out of neighboring communities, the continued vibrancy of the economy and job creation in Fort Bend County and the greater-Houston region, as well as infrastructure and mobility improvements such as the expansion of Interstate 69 through Rosenberg.

Since 2012, Rosenberg has added over 1,000 new jobs to our employment base – 550 in 2014 alone. Local unemployment was at 3.7% as of February 2015, lower than both the Texas and National rates. The median owner-occupied home value increased to \$116,000 in 2014, nearly double the 2007 value of \$63,500.

Generally speaking, the City is on steady financial ground, due to growth in the property tax base attributable to commercial development, and increasing sales tax revenue. Total Taxable Assessed Value for the City has more than doubled in the last ten years to \$1.89 billion in 2014, comprised of 43% residential and 57% commercial. From FY09 to FY14, the City's sales tax revenues increased 49%, with total collections in FY14 amounting to over \$16 million. For the first quarter of 2015, sales tax is holding steady, at \$3.17 million, up 2.3% from collections in the first quarter of 2014.





The City of Rosenberg will hold a General Election and a Special Election on May 9, 2015.



★ General Election ★

Qualified voters will select one candidate in each of the following races, for the terms delineated.

Candidates are listed in ballot order.

Mayor

2 year term

Cynthia McConathy
Dwayne Grigar

At Large Position 1

2 year term

George A. Zepeda, Sr.
William T. Benton

At Large Position 2

2 year term

Amanda J. Barta
Alicia Casias

AND

One of the following:

District 1

1 year term

Juan Salazar
Jimmie J. Peña

District 2

1 year term

Joe G. Segura
Susan Kroll Euton

District 3

1 year term

Sergio J. Villagomez
Lisa M. Wallingford
Joe Vera

District 4

1 year term

Lynn Moses
Brent Redding



★ Special Election ★

In the Special Election, qualified voters will adopt or reject a proposed amendment to the Home Rule Charter of the City of Rosenberg.

WHAT IS THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT?

PROPOSITION NO. 1: FOR/AGAINST The amendment of the City Charter providing for a term limit of three consecutive terms of office.

Why do I get to vote on these amendments?

Changes in the City's Charter must be approved by a vote of the qualified voters. Rosenberg City Council approved Ordinance No. 2015-07 at their Tuesday, February 17, 2015 City Council Meeting. The ordinance calls for a special election on May 9, 2015, for the purpose of submitting to the qualified voters, for adoption or rejection, a proposed amendment to the existing Home Rule Charter of the City of Rosenberg.

What is the City of Rosenberg Charter?

As a home rule city, the City of Rosenberg's Charter establishes the governmental structure and provides for the distribution of powers and duties among the various branches of government. As a home rule city, Rosenberg may establish guidelines for the general operation of the city, as long as they are not in conflict with state laws.

★ General Information ★

EARLY VOTING

Any early voting location

Monday, April 27 - Tuesday, May 5, 2015
(except Sunday)

MORE INFORMATION

www.CityofRosenberg.com/Elections

City Secretary's Office 832.595.3340

Fort Bend County Elections Office 281.341.8670

ELECTION DAY

Voters must vote at the specific location assigned to their precinct!

Saturday, May 9, 2015
7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

The City of Rosenberg has contracted with the Fort Bend County Elections Administrator for election services associated with the above election. The Fort Bend County Elections Administrator conducts Federal, State, and County elections, as well as elections for other government entities that may contract with them for such services.

Alternate Water Supply SECURED FOR FUTURE

The City has completed the necessary documents and agreements to secure an alternate water supply that, according to current projections, will be adequate to meet the Fort Bend Subsidence District's unfunded mandated water supply conversion requirements not only in 2016, but also in 2025, placing the City in a unique position in Fort Bend County to provide resources for future growth and development.

The City has executed a contract with the Brazosport Water Authority (BWA) to take delivery of up to 5.7 million gallons a day (MGD) of treated surface water. Based on current population and usage projections, 5.7 MGD is enough to meet the Fort Bend Subsidence District-mandated 30% conversion to an "alternative supply" in 2016, as well as the 60% conversion required in 2025.

"BWA is currently comprised of members which are mainly municipal-type users with similar long-term water management interests and priorities as Rosenberg, and we look forward to

working with them to deliver treated water to our community," stated Assistant City Manager John Maresh. "The City's contract with BWA provides additional advantages such as: a stable, predetermined rate structure which incorporates capital improvement costs; flexibility for use of the additional 2.7 MGD based on the City's future needs; the potential for cost dissipation through future growth of the customer base; and supply sustainability due to BWA's senior water rights and potential for future source development."

"Not only will securing an ample alternate supply through the contract with BWA save the City an estimated \$12.6 million over the next 35 years when compared to a City-owned and operated surface water treatment plant, but it also provides adequate water to support continued growth and economic development," said Rosenberg Mayor Vincent M. Morales, Jr.

Based on the amended BWA contract, the City will have to raise the subsidence fee paid by water customers from \$1.40 to \$2.20 over the next year to cover the costs of the water supply conversion. This adjustment will bring the City's subsidence fee closer in alignment with other fees in the area currently being charged for treated surface water. Amended subsidence fee rates were adopted by City Council in March, and are as follows:

- Effective July 1, 2015 – subsidence fee increases from \$1.40 per 1,000 gallons to \$1.80 per 1,000 gallons
- Effective January 1, 2016 – subsidence fee increases from \$1.80 per 1,000 gallons to \$2.20 per 1,000 gallons

The increases in the subsidence rate are in alignment with implementation plans to generate funds necessary to pay for improvements required by the Subsidence District's unfunded conversion mandate.



Rosenberg Main Street Hits the Ground Running

development, organizational management and training. The program stimulates private sector downtown reinvestment; and helps retain, expand and recruit businesses to downtown areas.

The Rosenberg Main Street Program is managed by a full-time local Main Street Manager, Dan Kelleher, and supported by a Main Street Advisory Board of volunteers which coordinates projects and activities through four volunteer committees: **Design, Economic Restructuring, Organization, and Promotion.** The Main Street Advisory Board meets in regular session the fourth Thursday of each month.

A State Resource Team of downtown development experts visited Rosenberg in mid-April to conduct an initial site visit, and community and stakeholder meetings, and presented their initial findings and recommendations. They will follow up with a written report at a future date. Additionally, Rosenberg's Main Street program is celebrating National Preservation Month in May by sponsoring a "Rosenberg Architectural Appreciation Photography Contest."

To learn more or sign up to be on the email list, visit www.CityofRosenberg.com/MainStreet, or follow the program on Facebook @RosenbergMainStreetProgram!

Rosenberg was named one of two 2015 Main Street cities by the Texas Historical Commission in January, joining 88 other active Main Street cities across the state. The Main Street Program is designed to assist with downtown revitalization through organization, design, promotion, and economic restructuring in the context of historic preservation.

Texas was one of the first states to begin a state coordinating program, and the Texas Main Street Program is affiliated with the National Main Street Center, a subsidiary of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. **The Texas Main Street Program is a revitalization program for historic downtown and neighborhood commercial districts that has been assisting communities for over 30 years.** Local Main Street programs receive a wide range of services and technical expertise from the state office in design and historic preservation, planning, economic

Profiles in Public Service

Acts of Valor Earn Rosenberg Police Officers and Firefighters Willie D. McQueen, Jr. Employee of the Quarter Honors

The officers and firefighters were honored with the City's Willie D. McQueen, Jr. Employee of the Quarter award, designed to recognize City staff who go above and beyond in carrying out the City's mission, and who demonstrate the spirit and heart of the Rosenberg community through their actions. The award, the highest an employee of the City of Rosenberg can receive, was named in honor of Rosenberg Police Sergeant Willie D. McQueen, Jr., after his untimely death in 2005.

The City of Rosenberg proudly recognized two Rosenberg Police Officers – Sergeant Anthony Schnacky and Officer Matthew Curry – at the January 20, 2015 City Council Meeting, for their collective act of bravery in November to save a car accident victim from a burning vehicle.

Upon arriving at the accident scene and assessing the situation, the two officers made a determination to extract the driver before the vehicle became fully engulfed in flames. Less than two minutes after the driver was extracted, the vehicle was completely engulfed. Despite risk to their own lives, the officers worked to pull the driver from the burning truck, and to move him to a safe area and care for him until Fire and EMS were able to make the scene.

The letter of commendation for the two officers reads, *"Without their commitment, in the fear of danger, the driver of this vehicle might*

not have survived. Sgt. Schnacky and Officer Curry represented the Rosenberg Police Department and the City of Rosenberg in their act of valor and bravery, and in saving a life through their continuous pursuit of police excellence."

Lieutenant Jeff Schumann, Driver/Operator Cody Bittner, and Firefighter Cornelius Brooks of the Rosenberg Fire Department were honored at the April 7, 2015 City Council Meeting, for their quick action as first responders on a scene in December 2014 involving a LCISD student in cardiac arrest.

The firefighter's initial response and actions, including application of an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED), provided life sustaining support until Fort Bend County EMS could respond to transport the child to a hospital for medical care. The young man has recovered, and enjoyed a

"reunion" with his coaches and the other emergency personnel involved in the incident, in January.

"Because of the efforts performed by Lieutenant Jeff Schumann, Driver/Operator Cody Bittner, and Firefighter Cornelius Brooks in the chain of survival, the patient was able to walk out of the hospital and spend Christmas with his family," said Rosenberg Fire Chief Wade Goates.

According to a press release issued by Fort Bend County Health and Human Services following the January First Responders Reunion, the youth "... survived this potentially fatal event due to the Fort Bend community's commitment to taking care of each other. The quick actions of the Lamar Junior High basketball coaches, Rosenberg Fire Department, and Fort Bend County EMS are the main reasons he survived.



Mayor Morales joins Officer Matthew Curry; Willie McQueen's daughter, Alexandria; Sgt. Anthony Schnacky; McQueen's mother, Martha; and Police Chief Dallis Warren in recognizing the officers.

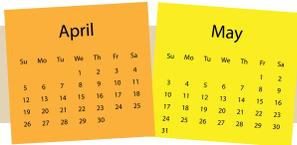


Mayor Morales congratulates Cody Bittner, Cornelius Brooks, and Lt. Jeff Schumann at the First Responders Reunion hosted by Fort Bend Health and Human Resources.

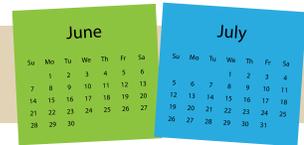


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Upcoming Events



- 4/27/2015 - 5/5/2015 Early Voting by Personal Appearance, except Sunday
- 5/9/2015 Election Day • 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM
- 5/25/2015 City Holiday Closure - Memorial Day (Observed)
- 7/3/2015 City Holiday Closure - Independence Day (Observed)
- 7/4/2015 Family 4th Celebration • Seabourne Creek Nature Park (Observed)

Visit www.CityofRosenberg.com for meeting **notices** and to confirm **events**.

Image Beautification Awards

Landscaping

- Jose Garcia and Anna Paula Arias (4709 Sandalwood Drive)
- Capital One Bank (1306 Spacek Road)
- First United Methodist Church (1106 4th Street)
- Joe and Doris Gurecky (1820 Allen Street)
- LD Sylvester Hayes (2003 Hamilton Street)
- Rodney and Rosaline Hayes (7727 Blue Lake Drive)
- Richard and Amalia Montemayor (523 Rainswept Pass Drive)
- Sidney Niemeyer (2713 Monroe Avenue)
- Charles and Tammy Rosales (1734 Jones Street)
- Richard and Barbara Spoons (3720 Avenue R)
- Van and Sherry Upton (7607 Crescent Lake Court)

Renovation

- Friends of North Rosenberg (503 3rd Street)
- McDonald's (3417 1st Street)
- The Witt Pitt (2516 1st Street)



Numbers to Know

Animal Control
832.595.3490

Citizen Relations
832.595.3301

Customer Service - Utilities
832.595.3400

Police Dispatch - Non-Emergency
832.595.3700

Republic Services - Solid Waste
713.726.7300

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