

GO OUR CITY

ADDITIONS AND RENOVATIONS OF LOCAL SCHOOLS

The recent passage of the Brazosport Independent School District's multimillion-dollar bond issue will result in a number of school improvements in Freeport. These include placing artificial turf on Hopper Field, renovations to Jane Long Elementary, essentially a new Brazosport High School and a new Velasco Elementary School. These improvements coincide perfectly with our beautification efforts, especially Phase II of the entryway landscaping plan.

BRAZOSPORT HIGH SCHOOL

Construction recently began on a major renovation to Brazosport High School, located at the corner of Brazosport Blvd. and 2nd Street. The majority of the campus will see new construction while some buildings, such as the auditorium, will receive a major facelift. The Brazosport High School project should be a wonderful addition to the city and will greatly enhance this major intersection of the community.



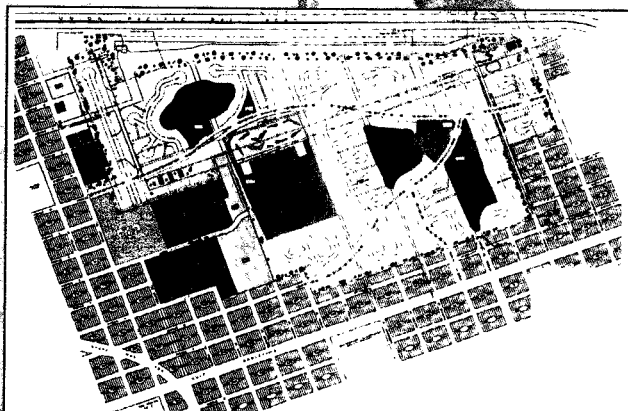
VELASCO ELEMENTARY

Construction of the new Velasco Elementary School is well underway and is expected to be substantially complete and ready for occupancy by the end of October 2004. The new school on Gulf Blvd. will dramatically improve the appearance of this major thoroughfare and should help encourage surrounding property owners to update their property. With its towering lighthouse design, this school promises to be a real community asset.

URBAN RENEWAL PROPERTY

Freeport is in the final stage of completing the acquisition of property in its urban renewal area. The state legislature passed the urban renewal act in the 1960's and the city subsequently began the acquisition of this property. The property, roughly 400 acres in size, is bounded by Gulf Blvd. on the south, Velasco Blvd. to the east, the Gulf Freeway to the north, and Skinner Street to the west.

The property, which consists of 25 blocks, was given as a bonus to the officials who purchased larger tracts of land in the Outer Creek area in the early 1960's. These tiny lots were never developed throughout the years and have remained vacant.



One of the blocks had more than 30 owners, making the purchase of this land extremely difficult. Clearly this has been a very

difficult process, but it is finally close to completion.

A major housing development is planned for this area and a number of prospective developers have expressed an interest in it. Tentative plans call for roughly 500 home sites, as well as a number of amenities such as bike and bike trails. Also planned are three large ponds of approximately ten acres each. The spoil from the ponds will be used to construct a noise and visual barrier that will completely surround the development. This development will be an attractive

addition for some of the thousands of new residents projected to arrive in Freeport within the next ten years.

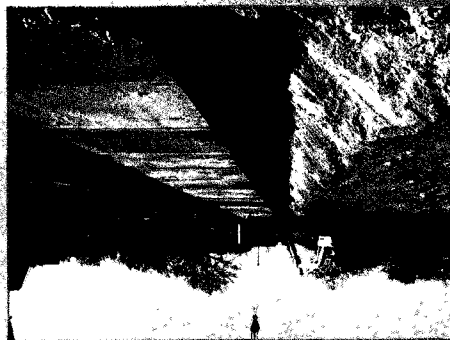
INFRASTR

Freeport's infrastructure is being addressed after many years of neglect. Residents have endured decades of decline in basic utility service, which has resulted in crisis situations in some areas of the city. City officials have taken an aggressive approach to infrastructure development. Improvements are occurring across the spectrum of the city's infrastructure - including sewer collection, water distribution, drainage, and streets.

SEWER

In the spring of 2002, Damian & Gallion Engineers performed a sewer sanitation study that provided the data to develop a prioritized sewer replacement plan. Over the ten years of this plan, the entire sewer collection system will be replaced according to severity of need.

In only its second year of the plan, Freeport has already replaced a large section of line in the area north of Gulf Boulevard from Karankawa Street east to the city limits and is currently working on replacing the line in the area north of the Gulf Boulevard area.



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WATER

water/sewer contract. Veolia Water, has hired additional staff and equipment to help facilitate these improvements at no additional cost to the city.

The City of Freeport has made roughly \$1 million dollars in improvements to its water distribution system over the last three years. Most of the upgrades have been associated with refurbishing ground

Additional improvements include reworking the City's water well in the Slaughter Road area and capping old water wells that were no longer used. The water distribution system will continue to be maintained. Additional improvements to the sewer collection system have been completed.

DRAINAGE

Major improvements to Freeport's storm drainage system have been made over the last several years, thanks in large part to a partnership with the Velasco Drainage District that has saved the city hundreds of thousands of dollars in labor costs. Improvements still need to be made in some areas of town, but the city is working hard to address resident concerns. Freeport has worked closely with engineers and the Velasco Drainage District to study the drainage problem and to come up with the best solutions.

Recent improvements include replacing a small drainage pump station on Britt Bailey with a gravity flow system that has substantially increased the drainage capacity of this area. In addition, a large drainage canal has been built that extends from the area behind the old school on Velasco Boulevard to Velasco Drainage District's large diesel-driven pump station on the Dow canal that is capable of pumping millions of gallons of water per minute.

Improvements also have been made in the area north of the Gulf Boulevard area.

UCTURE

School on Karankawa Street. Back in the early 1990's when Gulf Boulevard was refurbished, TX Dot put in a number of drainage boxes under the roadway that were never accessed. Drainage in the area near the new school has been greatly enhanced by tying into one of these boxes at Karankawa Street. Velasco Drainage District provided the labor and equipment, with the city and the school district sharing the cost of the boxes. Work is in progress on an additional tie-in at Division Street where the city has a small storm drainage pump station that will be eliminated by a gravity flow system with significantly more drainage capacity. Again, Freeport is partnering with Velasco Drainage District on this project.

A number of additional drainage improvements have been made around the city, including drainage ditch improvements along the railroad track off of Hickory. In addition, drainage ways have been cleared at certain dead end streets, such as at the end of Magnolia Street. As a city with a large sea level and sub sea-level area, Freeport fights a constant battle with drainage. While no one can forget

STREET RESTORATION

Due to the poor condition of a number of streets, Freeport has taken an aggressive approach to street restoration. This includes purchasing over \$600,000 in street equipment, training employees on street replacement methods, and beginning work on a multi-year street rehabilitation plan. Very few cities across the state actually take on a total street restoration program, but due to the large need, the most cost effective and timely means of addressing the poor condition of the city's streets was to train employees and get them the equipment they need to do the job. As a result, Freeport has been able to replace a number of streets around town.

The first part of this restoration program was the Dixie Drive where the road was

Dixie Drive, city crews have made improvements on portions of 4th, 6th, and 7th streets. The major east/west thoroughfare from Dixie Drive all the way to Navigation was also greatly enhanced. The City hired Uticon Construction Company to rebuild Cherry Street from the railroad tracks to 4th Street. This project included drainage

work and the addition of a new water main. The end result was that this major access way into the City's downtown area has been vastly improved.

Velasco Boulevard has also seen improvements including



Velasco Bridge. On this project, city crews have replaced



FIREPORT POLICE

EMS & FIRE DEPARTMENT

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Freeport continues to implement new programs and activities to help develop pride. Examples of such events include the first annual Red Tide Community Pep Rally, the first annual Treasure Hunt, and the traditional Holiday on the Brazos Celebration. Freeport has also reinstituted the Flap Jack 5K fun run. The overwhelming response to these efforts reflects the bond shared by many Freeport citizens.

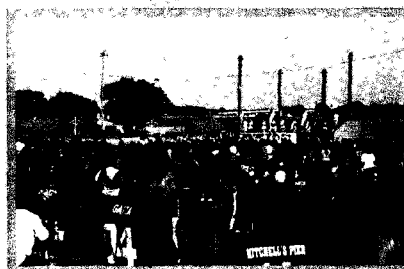
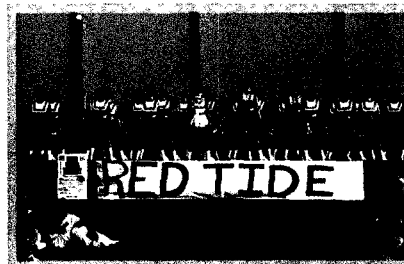
RED TIDE COMMUNITY PEP RALLY

The first annual Red Tide Community Pep Rally was held before the first home football game this past year. The City of Freeport partnered with the Brazosport Independent School District in putting this event together. The purpose of the rally was twofold: to support the local football team and to develop a sense of community for those who elected to attend.

Most events these days revolve around making money. The goal of the Red Tide was for families to enjoy themselves at little or no cost. The objective was simply for people to come out to support the local football team and to leave feeling good about their community. Freeport officials attempted to create a carnival atmosphere at the head of the Old River before the football game. The high school band, drill

team and cheerleaders were all on hand.

The city offered, at no cost, food and activities including watermelon, popcorn, sausage-on-a-stick, face painting, and a dunking booth. After the pep rally, citizens marched in behind the band to the football game. Anyone who wore a Brazosport red shirt was allowed free into the game. The local economic development corporation, with assistance from Veolia Water, picked up the cost of the entry fee. Approximately 1,500 people attended the community pep rally and an estimated 3,300 people attended the football game, most sporting Brazosport red colors. As a "feel good" event, the Red Tide was a big success. It was a great evening, with one exception—the football team lost in double overtime. Maybe next year!



TREASURE HUNT

2004 saw the inauguration of the city's first annual Treasure Hunt. About fifty people came out to pit their wits against a challenging riddle-driven treasure hunt. Teams successfully completing the Treasure Hunt within the allotted time were given a key to the treasure chest. The team with the key that opened the chest won 500 one-dollar coins – not bad for a



morning's work. Veolia Water, the city's water/sewer contractor, provided the \$500.



This was another no cost event designed to promote a sense of community pride.

PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

Freeport's Flap Jack 5K fun run continues to be well received by local runners. Upon conclusion of this 3.1-mile course, runners and walkers alike are treated to a breakfast of flapjacks, sausage, and orange juice. To further the city's commitment to physical and spiritual values, the police and fire departments have both established physical standards to ensure that emergency response personnel are in top physical condition.

The city is committed to both the physical



and spiritual development of the community. What's good for the churches is good for the city and what's good for the city is good for the churches. To that end, church pastors were invited to a dinner meeting to inform them about various city initiatives. Encouraging and supporting



the local churches reflects directly back upon the city. As a result of this and subsequent meetings, area church pastors have agreed to lead the invocation at regular city council meetings and are working together to promote the spiritual growth of the community.

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