

City Page
June 11, 2009

State of the City Presented to Chamber of Commerce

City Manager Paulette Hartman presented a "State of the City" address during the Joshua Area Chamber of Commerce luncheon held May 20th. Engaged was the word used to sum up the state of the City of Joshua today. Merriam-webster.com defines engaged as "involved in activity; greatly interested; being in gear".

Ms. Hartman presented the Goals and Vision statements established by the City Council for the community. These goals are:

- Promote a positive City image
- Provide professional, responsive and financially responsible City services
- Enhance public safety and infrastructure
- Promote family oriented, planned community growth
- Plan for quality development, economic diversity and revitalization
- Enhance internal/external communications, education and involvement

Accomplishments of the City over the past year were also presented including the following:

- Lowered the property tax rate for 2nd consecutive year while improving City services – Lowered from \$0.669 in 2007 to \$0.653476 in 2009
- Increased revenues from sources other than property tax - permits and fees, sales tax, municipal court revenue are all up
- Added an additional patrol officer – 2 officers on duty at all times and 3 officers on duty in peak call times
- Implemented Citywide Emergency Notification System – Connect CTY
- Joshua Station Development is underway – water and sewer installed, Joshua Station Boulevard significantly complete, new market style Brookshire's will be anchor
- Texas Parks & Wildlife Department Grant for first City Park – design and construction plans and land acquisition underway
- New Zoning Ordinance & Map adopted in conformance with Comprehensive Plan adopted in last year
- Annexing land east of City Limits so all Cooper Valley Subdivision will be in the City of Joshua
- City Ordinances codified and available on the City's web site
- Wedge Industries soon to open and increase property values as well as sales tax revenue
- LaQuinta Hotel to open in October with adjacent retail strip soon to follow
- Improved Economic Development through use of sales tax funds dedicated to economic development along with cooperative agreements
- Enhanced City web site with service request page including events calendar and frequently asked questions
- Worked with Johnson County to complete road repairs and resurfacing on Forest Lane, Caddo Street, Eddy Drive/County Road 909, and implemented preventive street maintenance program
- Continued to build City reserve fund
- Completed drainage study and began exploration of project to improve drainage in problem areas
- Completed Fire Department Master Plan
- Received credit rating upgrade to A from BBB.

Ms. Hartman stated that the slump in the economy has had very little impact on the City budget and finances so far. In fact, revenues to the General Fund are up 21% compared to the previous year. The majority of this increase comes from sales tax revenues which are up 35% compared to the same time period last year. Property tax revenues are up 15% compared to last year. This is largely due new construction and minerals added to the tax roll last year. Permits and fees are also up 15% compared to the same time period last year due to drilling activity and increased fees on development permits.

Information related to growth of the City was also presented. The City's current estimated population is 5,700. Growth projections show that Joshua's population will increase by another 2,000 people by 2015. Although the number of residential building permits has decreased drastically, the number of commercial building permits tripled in 2008. Commercial permits have slowed some in the early part of 2009, but the City expects to see both residential and commercial building activity increase by the end of 2010.

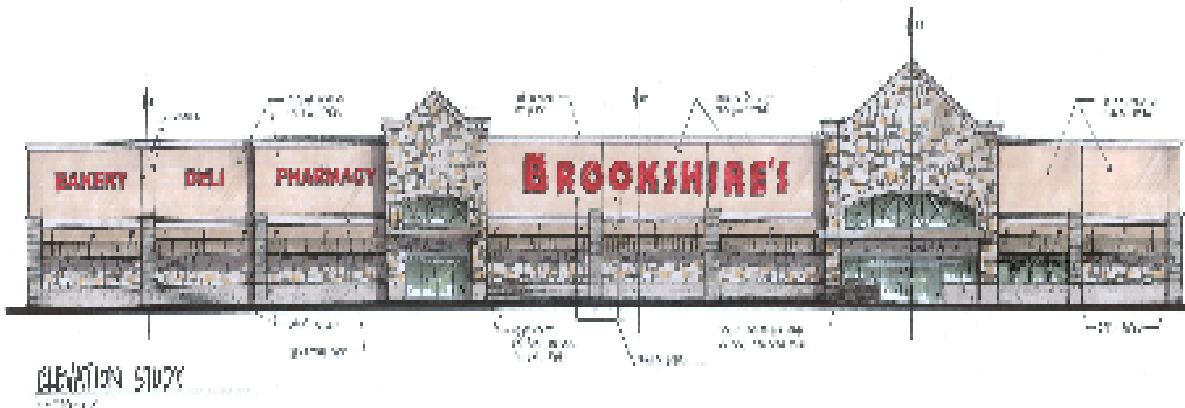
The Joshua Station mixed use development is currently underway. Water and sewer infrastructure to the site is complete, and Joshua Station Boulevard is near completion. The development will host a market style Brookshire's grocery store, retail, restaurants, town homes, and an office park along with a park and ride and commuter rail facility. (See attached elevation for Brookshires)

The presentation also provided an overview of gas drilling activity in the City. There are currently 13 approved well pad sites in the City limits, and Joshua has permitted over 30 wells in the last 2 years. Joshua only receives revenues from the ad valorem tax rate on the mineral value, permit fees, and road use fees. The 2008 tax rolls included \$14,000,000 in mineral values which amounts to \$91,487 to the City's General Fund when you apply the property tax rate of \$0.653476 per \$100 of valuation. This is equal to adding 100 homes of average value to the City tax rolls; however, the mineral value will decrease over time. The permit fee for drilling is \$8,150 per well which covers the cost of permit review and inspections by a certified gas well inspector. The City receives an average of \$9,000 per well in road use fees which is used to repair the roads used to access the drilling sites. The City of Joshua does not have any leased minerals and has no plans to lease any minerals in the future.

Ms. Hartman also provided an overview of the City budget for the current fiscal year which is just shy of \$2.8 million. 48% of revenues come from property taxes, while the remaining 52% comes from a combination of sales taxes, franchise fees, fines and court fees, permit fees, and other sources. 52% of the money funds public safety functions including police, fire, emergency medical services, animal control and municipal court. The remaining 48% of the money is spent on building inspections, planning, streets, administration, and community services.

The presentation concluded with a review of plans for 2009 and beyond including:

- Design plans for first City park in progress
 - Hope to begin construction by early 2010
 - Majority funded by TPWD grant
 - Fund raising effort to cover additional amenities
- Citizen Capital Projects Study committee reviewing major capital needs and will recommend projects for a possible bond election
 - Drainage Projects
 - Street Reconstruction projects
 - Fire Department – equipment and possible station
- Design of Park and Ride facility underway
- Begin implementation of plan to transition to full time, paid Fire Department (this will be done over several years to avoid impact on the property tax rate)
- 2nd Annual 4th of July Celebration



Voting for City Council Place 4 Run-Off

The run-off election for the Place 4 City Council seat will be held June 13th at Joshua City Hall located at 101 South Main Street. Polls will be open 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.

Rabies Clinic and Micro Chipping Clinic Scheduled for June 13, 2009

A low cost Rabies Clinic will be held on Saturday, June 13, 2009 from 1:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. in the parking lot of the Wachovia Bank, located at 449 S. Broadway. City of Joshua Ordinance No. 471-2006, requires pets within the City limits be registered with City of Joshua Animal Control. Pets must have a current rabies vaccination and be micro chipped to register with the City. If the animal is not micro chipped, the animal can be micro chipped by Joshua Animal Control at the time of registration.

The Fees for the clinic are:

City License \$5.00 for sterilized; \$10.00 for non sterilized

Micro Chip Fee \$20.00 (2 year license fee is included with the microchip fee when provided at the Rabies Clinic.)

Rabies vaccination \$8.00

Attention Military Veterans

Last year, the July 4th Celebration was a huge success. This year, we will honor military veterans and thank them for their service to our country. We are asking any and all military veterans from Joshua to contact us, so that you may be recognized as we honor your service. If you are a veteran, and plan to attend, please contact Mike Peacock at 817-558-7447 or by email at dioperations@cityofjoshuatx.us

City Wide Summer Clean-up July 10th – 12th

The City of Joshua will host the summer clean-up on July 10, 11, and 12, 2009 from 7:00a.m. until 7:00 p.m. Persons should enter off of 6th Street, and exit on to 10th Street. A \$5.00/ea fee will be charged for batteries and tires. We cannot accept car parts, paint, chemicals or appliances with a compressor. Proof of residency will be required in the form of recent tax statement or trash service bill from IESI. The costs for the clean up are covered by a Grant from the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality and the North Central Texas Council of Governments.

Earthquake felt again in Johnson County.

When You Feel an Earthquake:

- DROP, COVER, AND HOLD ON! Move quickly and only a few steps to a safer place – under a sturdy piece of furniture, such as a desk or stout table. Research has shown that most injuries in U.S. earthquakes occur when people inside buildings attempt to move to a different location inside the building or try to leave.
- If you are in bed, hold on and stay there, protecting your head with a pillow.
- Stay away from windows.
- Stay indoors until the shaking stops and you're sure it's safe to exit. In a high-rise building, you can expect that fire alarms and sprinklers will activate during a quake.
- If you are outdoors, find a clear spot away from buildings, trees, and power lines. Drop to the ground.
- If you are in a car, slow down and drive to a clear place (as described above). Stay in the car until the shaking stops.

After the Shaking Stops:

- Check yourself for injuries. Check others for injuries and give first aid for serious injuries.
- Look for and extinguish small fires and eliminate any obvious fire hazards. Turn off your electricity if you have obvious damage to wiring and fixtures. If you smell gas or think your gas pipes are leaking, turn off the gas. (Remember, only a professional should turn it back on.)
- Protect yourself from further danger by putting on long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, sturdy shoes, and work gloves.
- Listen to the radio or television for emergency information and instructions.
- Expect aftershocks. Each time you feel one, DROP, COVER, AND HOLD ON!

- Inspect your home for damage. If it appears your home could collapse, then get everyone out as soon as possible.
- Use the telephone only to report life-threatening emergencies. Telephone service may be disrupted by the earthquake

For more information on emergency preparedness, please visit the city website at www.cityofjoshuatx.us and go to the Emergency Management link.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

June 9, 2009	4A Economic Development Corporation Meeting	5:30 p.m.
June 9, 2009	4B Economic Development Corporation Meeting	7:00 p.m.
June 13, 2009	City Council Place 4 Runoff Election from 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.	
June 16, 2009	Capital Improvements Committee	7:00 p.m.
June 18, 2009	Regular Meeting of the Joshua City Council	7:00 p.m.
June 23, 2009	Capital Improvements Committee	7:00 p.m.