



March-April 2013

# Inside College Station

\* \* \* \* \* CITY OF COLLEGE STATION \* Home of Texas A&M University® \* College Station, Texas \* \* \* \* \*

**\*NEW\***

## CSU EMERGENCY HOTLINE

*New system will improve outage and emergency reporting*

On March 1, we implemented a new hotline for reporting electric, water, streetlight or sewer issues that makes reporting more efficient. The new number is **1-855-528-4278(4CSU)** and you will need to enter your College Station Utilities account number to automatically identify your location.

Providing your account number enables us to dispatch crews quicker and manage the situation better. This system also captures data for all outages, not just major ones, which allows for more proactive repairs, replacements and upgrades.

We've provided durable stickers (see right) along with your bill this month for you to keep your College Station Utilities account number in a handy place. Another idea is to store the new hotline number and your account number in your mobile phone.

### WHY DID WE NEED IT?

In 2001, CSU began using an automated troubleshooting and reporting system to handle the large number of calls during an outage. Dispatch operators had to manually turn on the system, which resulted in missed calls and consumed valuable time in critical situations. Adding to the frustration was the fact that system upgrades were incompatible with the city's advanced telephone system.

As a result, CSU began investigating ways to upgrade the system to improve customer service, troubleshooting, and provide more accurate outage information and data.

The old system only accepted 14 calls at once. The new system handles an unlimited amount and it will always be activated, so missed calls won't be a

problem. The new system will also have voice recognition capability, allowing you to speak your account number instead of entering it numerically. After you enter your account number, your address will be read back for verification.

### ALWAYS REPORT OUTAGES

Unfortunately, power and water outages happen. When they do, it's important for College Station Utilities customers to let us know promptly. If you simply assume your neighbor has already reported it, service restoration may be delayed. Your timely report also helps us determine the size of the outage.

### UTILITY CUSTOMER SERVICE

For billing questions or changes to your account, you can still call Utility Customer Service at 979-764-3535, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. You can also go online to make payments, enroll in paperless billing or connect/disconnect services at [cstx.gov/ucs](http://cstx.gov/ucs).

**College Station Utilities  
NEW HOTLINE**

Have an **outage/emergency** with your  
**ELECTRIC, WATER or WASTEWATER?**  
Call with your CSU account number ready:  
Acct #: \_\_\_\_\_

**855.528.4278**  
(4CSU)

 Learn more at [cstx.gov/utilities](http://cstx.gov/utilities)

### QUICK LINKS

College Station Utilities  
[cstx.gov/utilities](http://cstx.gov/utilities)

Utility Customer Service  
[cstx.gov/ucs](http://cstx.gov/ucs)



## Brazos Valley Earth Day

### *Family-friendly event at Wolf Pen Creek*

Celebrate our natural and cultural environments during the annual Brazos Valley Earth Day at Wolf Pen Creek in College Station. The event will take place April 21, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

This free family-friendly event features live entertainment, environmental displays and demonstrations, a Kids Zone, refreshments, a Tie Dye station, face painting and more.

For complete Brazos Valley Earth Day event details, visit [brazosvalleyearthday.com](http://brazosvalleyearthday.com).

## Floodplains and Flood Insurance

### *What you need to know*

Floodplains are regulatory boundaries established to preserve the flood-carrying capacity of our creeks, channels and rivers. These are established by engineering analysis and reviewed, approved and mapped by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). College Station has special regulations in place to regulate construction and other developments within floodplains to help manage potential dangers associated with flooding. Property owners, renters and businesses can purchase flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) as a result of the City of College Station's floodplain management ordinances. In exchange, the NFIP provides federally-backed flood insurance at affordable rates.

Communities that participate in the NFIP are rated by FEMA through the Community Rating System. FEMA encourages communities to implement floodplain management standards which exceed the minimum NFIP standards. In return, FEMA rewards communities with higher standards by offering a discount on flood insurance

policies. The current City of College Station rating is a seven. This rating provides residents with a 15 percent discount on flood insurance policies.

It is important to know that, if you have a mortgage from a federally regulated or insured lender on a home located in a high-risk flood area, federal law requires you to purchase flood insurance. Also, if you've received a federal grant or loan for previous flood losses, you must have a flood policy to qualify for future aid.

Any development in the floodplain without a permit is illegal. To acquire a permit or to report such illegal activity, contact the Planning and Development Department at 979.764.3570. To learn more about floodplains, flood insurance or related information, visit [cstx.gov/floodplains](http://cstx.gov/floodplains).



## Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event - April 27

The Spring Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event will take place Saturday, April 27 from 7 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the University Services Building. The event can be accessed by going east from Hwy 6 on Harvey Road, then taking the first left after the Veterans Park entrance. No entry will be allowed from University Drive.

This free event is the safest way to properly dispose of your Household Hazardous Wastes. Some examples of accepted materials include paint, medications, computers, gasoline, pesticides, herbicides, motor oil, antifreeze, batteries, compact fluorescent light bulbs and household cleaning agents.

For a full list of accepted wastes, visit [BVSWMA.com](http://BVSWMA.com) or call the HHW Hotline at 979-764-3809.

### INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

For details, contact Micaela Farrington-Aguilar at [maguilar@bvswma.com](mailto:maguilar@bvswma.com) or call 979-764-3806.

# events

## *February-March*

**April 1 – May 17**

**LRC Summer Program Registration  
Activities from June 3 to Aug. 9  
7:45 a.m.-5 p.m., Ages 6-15  
\$50 Resident, \$100 Non-resident  
[cstx.gov/lincolncenter](http://cstx.gov/lincolncenter)**

**April 8-19 | Girls Volleyball  
5-8th grade. \$60 per child.  
\*Volunteer coaches needed  
[cstx.gov/sports](http://cstx.gov/sports)**

**April 14 | Kite Building Workshop  
Larry J. Ringer Library, 1:30-3:30 p.m.  
\*During April, the library will display  
kites from all over the world.  
[bcslibrary.org](http://bcslibrary.org)**

**April 20 – Brazos Valley Earth Day  
11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Wolf Pen Creek  
[brazosvalleyearthday.com](http://brazosvalleyearthday.com)**

**April 27 - HHW Collection Event  
7 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the  
University Services Building  
[BVSWMA.com](http://BVSWMA.com)**

**April 29 – May 10 | Ages 16+  
Adult Softball, \$390 per team  
Adult Kickball, \$395 per team  
Adult Volleyball, \$210 per team  
[cstx.gov/sports](http://cstx.gov/sports)**

**May 4 – WPC Festival  
Site Grand Opening  
12- 6 p.m. Fajitas Cook-Off,  
entertainment & vendors  
[cstx.gov/wolfpen](http://cstx.gov/wolfpen)**

**May 27 – Memorial Day  
City Offices Closed  
No Recycling. All other sanitation  
services will be collected as normal.  
[cstx.gov/sanitation](http://cstx.gov/sanitation)**

For more events, visit:

**[cstx.gov/calendar](http://cstx.gov/calendar)**



**November-December  
2013**

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The City of College Station continues its holiday tradition with Christmas at the Creek, a fun-filled weekend on Dec. 6 and 7 at Wolf Pen Creek Park, located at 1015 Colgate Drive.

On Friday, Dec. 6, bring blankets or chairs to enjoy a musical and a movie. Local playwright Mark Taylor wrote a musical just for Christmas at the Creek that will premiere three times during the evening. In conjunction with Movies in the Park, The Santa Clause will start at 8:30 p.m.

On Saturday, Dec. 7, children are invited to create festive wonders at the Lowe's Christmas Crafts Corner. Find the perfect gift at the Holiday Vendor Village where a variety of vendors will be selling arts, crafts, jewelry, candles and more. Guests can also skate on the synthetic ice rink, go down the Log Jammer Extreme Slide, take a ride on Paw Paw's Party Train, play on inflatables and create a yummy snack in the Kroger s'more area. Lastly, be sure to stay for the Holiday Concert with live entertainment by Marcia Ball as well as other local dance and gospel performances.

Each night there will be hayrides, a live nativity, petting zoo and photos with Santa. Parking is conveniently located at Post Oak Mall. Hayride drop-off and pick-up locations will be at Post Oak Mall, the Arts Council of Brazos Valley and the Colgate Street entrance of Wolf Pen Creek Park.

Handicap parking will be available at the Colgate entrance off of Eastmark. Pets, glass containers and alcohol are not allowed on the premises.

### Entertainment Schedule

#### FRIDAY, DEC. 6 - 6-10 P.M.

Petting zoo and live nativity at the Wolf Pen Creek Plaza. Photos with Santa at the Arts Council of Brazos Valley.

#### Wolf Pen Creek Amphitheater

- 6 p.m. -- Creek View Elementary Show Choir
- 6:30, 7:15 & 8 p.m. -- Original Christmas at the Creek Musical by Mark Taylor
- 8:30 p.m. -- Movies in the Park featuring The Santa Clause

#### SATURDAY, DEC. 7 - 2-10 P.M.

2-10 p.m. -- Photos with Santa at the Arts Council of Brazos Valley

#### Wolf Pen Creek Festival Site

- 2-3 p.m. -- Synthetic Ice Rink reserved for special needs only
- 2-6 p.m. -- Lowe's Christmas Crafts
- 2-8 p.m. -- Holiday Vendor Village, synthetic ice rink, live nativity, Log Jammer Extreme slide, Kroger s'more area, Paw Paw's Party Train, inflatables and petting zoo

#### Wolf Pen Creek Amphitheater

- 2-7 p.m. -- Local Dance Performances by Kids Klub Dance, Expressions Dance & Music, On Our Toes Dance Studio, Suzanne's Dance Studio, Powersports Dance Factory with Gentry Gandy's Xtreme Dance Troupe and Suzanne's Dance Studio
- 7-8 p.m. -- Local Gospel Performances by Kemp Carver Notables and Lily of the Valley Church of God in Christ Sanctuary Choir
- 8:30-10 p.m. -- Holiday Concert with Marcia Ball

For complete entertainment details, visit [cstx.gov/Christmas](http://cstx.gov/Christmas) or call 979.764.3486.

#### Lights at Central Park

Christmas lights will be on display at the 47-acre Stephen C. Beachy Central Park from Nov. 28 through Jan. 1. Bring your friends and family out to view this festive holiday display.

### QUICK LINKS

**Christmas at the Creek**  
[cstx.gov/Christmas](http://cstx.gov/Christmas)



## Learn About YOUR City

### Awareness program opportunities



Want to learn more about your municipality, fire and police departments? Well, you have three opportunities to do so this spring:

#### Citizens University

##### Jan. 27-April 14

In Citizens University, you'll get to talk to those who build budgets, construct capital projects, plan for growth, keep the lights on and neighborhoods safe within the City of College Station. It begins Jan. 27 and runs through April 14, with no classes scheduled during spring break (March 10). Sessions are conducted Mondays from 7 to 9 p.m.

For more information or to apply, visit [cstx.gov/cu](http://cstx.gov/cu). Application deadline is Friday, Jan. 10. Program contact is Lacey Lively at 979.764.3445 or [llively@cstx.gov](mailto:llively@cstx.gov).

#### Citizens Fire Academy

##### Feb. 20 – May 14

This 11-week learning program is designed to increase awareness about the College Station Fire Department's mission and daily operations. The course will cover a variety of hands-on topics. CPR and First Aid instruction will also be offered.

Classes will be conducted on Mondays from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. from Feb. 20 to May 14 at city fire stations and the Brayton Fire Training Field. A special Saturday session will feature a live fire exercise. Participants must be at least 18 years old.

To apply, visit [cstx.gov/cfa](http://cstx.gov/cfa). Application deadline is Monday, Feb. 10. For additional information, call 979.764.3712.

#### Citizens Police Academy

##### Feb. 4 – April 22

Citizens Police Academy is an interactive program designed to offer citizens an inside look at the College Station Police Department and local criminal justice system.

Sessions are held Tuesday nights from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the College Station Police Department for 11 weeks each spring and fall. Spring session runs Feb. 4 to April 22, with no class during spring break.

For more program information and to apply, visit [cstx.gov/cpa](http://cstx.gov/cpa) or call 979.764.3624.



#### Jingle Bell Fun Run

##### Sunday, Dec. 8 - 1:45 p.m.

The 24th Annual Jingle Bell Fun Run is set for Sunday, Dec. 8 at 1:45 p.m. and will be followed by the Bryan-College Station Christmas Parade. This two-mile run starts at the corner of University Drive and South College Avenue and ends at the corner of Texas Avenue and Villa Maria.

Entry fee is \$15 before Nov. 15 and \$20 between Nov. 16 and 29. Race shirts will be provided to those who register before Nov. 15.

Participants can register for the race at [cstx.gov/Christmas](http://cstx.gov/Christmas) or in-person at Stephen C. Beachy Central Park, located at 1000 Krenek Tap Road. Packet pick-up will be Dec. 5-6 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, call 979.764.3486.

#### Brazos Valley Senior Games

##### Register from Jan. 13 to Feb. 7

The City of College Station is hosting the 2014 Brazos Valley Senior Games, in affiliation with the Texas State Senior Games Association, Feb. 20-23.

Ages 50+ can compete in track & field, swimming, 3-on-3 basketball, cycling, horseshoes, washers, tennis, bowling, road race, pickleball, golf, ladies volleyball, 42, race walk or disc golf. Gold, Silver and Bronze medals will be awarded in each event and age group.

Registration runs Jan. 13 to Feb. 7 and the fee is \$20 plus additional fees per event. For more event details and to register, visit [cstx.gov/seniors](http://cstx.gov/seniors) or contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 979.764.3486.

## events

### December-January

**Dec. 7 – Breakfast with Santa at the Lincoln Recreation Center** from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Go to [cstx.gov/lincolncenter](http://cstx.gov/lincolncenter) or call 979-764-3779.

**Dec. 11 – Southwood Community Center Holiday Open House for Seniors** from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Go to [cstx.gov/southwood](http://cstx.gov/southwood) or call 979.764.6371.

**Dec. 14 – “The Age of Elegance” Senior Pageant** from 6-9 p.m. at the Lincoln Recreation Center. Ages 55+ are invited to participate. Enjoy free food, fun and door prizes. Call 979.764.3779 or email [awilliams@cstx.gov](mailto:awilliams@cstx.gov).

**Dec. 24 & 25, Jan. 1 & 20 – City Offices Closed.** Call 979.764.3690 or go to [cstx.gov/sanitation](http://cstx.gov/sanitation) for sanitation holiday schedules.

**Jan. 6-24 – Challenger Basketball Registration for PreK-12th graders with special needs.** \$15 per child. Program begins Feb. 1. Go to [cstx.gov/sports](http://cstx.gov/sports).

**Jan. 13-31 – Adult Softball & Kickball Registration** for ages 16+. Play begins Feb. 17. Go to [cstx.gov/sports](http://cstx.gov/sports).

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**Recycle your live Christmas trees** by leaving them at the curb by 8 a.m. on your scheduled brush/bulky collection day. All accessories must be removed. Recycled trees are either composted or chipped and spread throughout city parks.

For more events, visit:

**[cstx.gov/calendar](http://cstx.gov/calendar)**

## College Station to Celebrate 75th Anniversary

*College Station, Texas was designated by the U.S. Postal Service in 1877. The name was derived from the train station located near Texas A&M University campus. On Oct. 19, 1938, citizens voted 217 to 39 to incorporate the City of College Station. The first City Council meeting was held on Feb. 25, 1939.*

§

The City of College Station will recognize its 75th anniversary with an exhibit at the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum from Oct. 21 to Jan. 4. Titled "College Station: A Community History," the exhibit features local memorabilia, artifacts and stories that capture the unique history of College Station, Texas, from the time leading up to its incorporation in 1938 to today.

Displayed items are grouped into various segments that highlight legacy families, homes, schools, businesses, media and government in College Station during its growth from an outlying rural area to a city of almost 100,000 in population. Among the many items proposed for display include:

\* An original playbook and championship ring owned by the late Manning Smith, assistant coach of the 1939



(Above) College Station's first City Council members

National Champion Texas A&M University football team. Smith and his descendants have lived in College Station since its incorporation.

\* Four aluminum propeller blades from the Enola Gay B-29 bomber used during the atomic bomb drop on Hiroshima, Japan, during World War II. These items currently reside at the Oran W. Nicks Low Speed Wind Tunnel and were used to operate the tunnel shortly after the war.

\* FREDDIE the Robot. Purchased in the late 1970s, FREDDIE, College Station Police Department's robot mascot, helped police officers teach local children about safety. FREDDIE is a symbol of the city's commitment to community policing and a remnant of our 20th-century love of robots.

The George Bush Presidential Library and Museum will offer

free public admission to the city exhibit Nov. 16-17.

Visitors and residents are also welcome to join in celebrating College Station's heritage with a series of other related events in November, including:

### Classic Film Series

Thursday, Nov. 14 -----

The George Bush Presidential Library and Museum's classic film series presents "We've Never Been Licked," a 1943 film produced by Walter Wanger. Parts of the film were shot at the Texas A&M University campus and reference many school traditions. Refreshments will be available at 6 p.m., and the show begins at 7 p.m. in the Annenberg Presidential Conference Center's Hagler Auditorium. This event is free to the public.

### Homecoming Event

Friday, Nov. 15 -----

College Station's A&M

Consolidated High School alumni groups will host a reunion dinner and evening activities at Southwood Community Center in Brian Bachmann Community Park. This event is open to the public; however, seats are limited. Please contact Linda Harvell at 979-703-5305 or [lindaharvell@aol.com](mailto:lindaharvell@aol.com) for ticket prices and details.

### Community Celebration

Saturday, Nov. 16 -----

The Community Celebration event at the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum features free public admission to the city exhibit, locomotive displays provided by title sponsor Union Pacific, vintage car displays, community storytelling and other family-friendly activities.

For information about historic preservation or other heritage programs in College Station, visit [cstx.gov/heritage](http://cstx.gov/heritage) or email [heritageprogram@cstx.gov](mailto:heritageprogram@cstx.gov).



### QUICK LINKS

Historic Preservation  
[cstx.gov/heritage](http://cstx.gov/heritage)

## National Night Out

Oct. 1 -----

Join the College Station Police Department and other Brazos County law enforcement agencies for National Night Out on the evening of Tuesday, Oct. 1. The goal of National Night Out is to heighten awareness of crime prevention, to strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships.

All residents are encouraged to step outside to mingle with their neighbors and to visit with local law enforcement officers, who will be stopping at neighborhood block parties throughout the evening.

Interested in organizing a block party for your neighborhood? Contact Officer Ryan Clements at [rclements@cstx.gov](mailto:rclements@cstx.gov) or 979.764.3579.

## National Fire Prevention Week

Oct. 6-12 -----

The College Station Fire Department is helping spread the word about the dangers of kitchen fires and how to prevent them from starting in the first place. According to the latest National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) research, cooking is the leading cause of home fires. Here are some simple tips you can follow to prevent kitchen fires:

- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, broiling or boiling food.
- When you are simmering, baking or roasting food, check it regularly and use a timer to remind you.
- If you have young children, use the stove's back burners whenever possible. Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the stove.
- Keep potholders, oven mitts, wooden utensils, paper and plastic bags, towels, and anything else that can burn, away from your stovetop.

## SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES

The College Station Fire Department has been awarded a grant from FEMA to provide and install smoke alarms for College Station residents who are either financially or physically unable to install the alarms themselves. If you have concerns regarding smoke alarms in your home, please call CSFD at 979.764.3705 or visit [cstx.gov/fire](http://cstx.gov/fire).

For more information about National Fire Prevention Week, visit [fpw.org](http://fpw.org).

## Warrant Amnesty & Roundup

Oct. 21-Nov. 17 -----

Have a warrant? Be sure to pay it off during the warrant amnesty period that is scheduled for Oct. 21-Nov. 8. Warrant amnesty allows citizens with outstanding warrants to avoid paying the \$50 per case warrant fee if fines are paid in full. The City of College Station accepts cash, cashier's check, credit cards, money orders, and personal checks. Outstanding warrants cannot be paid via College Station's online citation payment system. Those who do not pay their fines will be arrested during the warrant roundup, Nov. 9-17.

To determine if you have an unpaid citation, visit [cstx.gov/warrants](http://cstx.gov/warrants). For more information, call 979.764.3683.

## Bicycling Essentials Course

Sept. 28, Oct. 5, Oct. 12 -----

The City of College Station is offering a Bicycling Essentials Course to give cyclists the confidence they need to ride safely and legally in traffic or on the trail. The one-day course will teach participants how to conduct bicycle safety checks, fix a flat, on-bike skills, crash avoidance techniques and more.

The course will be held on Sept. 28, Oct. 5 and Oct. 12 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Texas A&M University's Transit Building, located at 444 Agronomy Road. Anyone over the age of 14 can participate. A bicycle and helmet is required. Course fee is \$20 per person.

Learn more at [cstx.gov/bikepedgreenways](http://cstx.gov/bikepedgreenways) or call 979.764.3674.

## Movies in the Park

Oct. 25, Dec. 6 -----

Enjoy free, family-friendly movies this fall, brought to you by the City of College Station and Maroon Weekly.

Oct. 25: The Goonies  
Dec. 6: The Santa Clause

Admission is free. Gates open at 7:30 p.m. and the movie begins at 8:30 p.m. Guests may bring their own refreshments. Coolers must be 48 quarts or smaller. Alcohol, glass containers and pets are not allowed.

Concessions will be available for purchase. For more information, contact the Parks & Recreation Department at 979.764.3486.

## EVENTS

October-November

### \*\*Important Election Dates\*\*

Mayor and Place 2, both at-large positions, are up for three-year terms in Nov. 5 general election. Oct. 7 is last day to submit voter registration application to Brazos County Voter Registrar. Oct. 21-Nov. 1 is Early Voting. Nov. 5 is Election Day, 7 a.m.-7 p.m. [cstx.gov/elections](http://cstx.gov/elections), 979.764.3541

Oct. 5 | Household Hazardous Waste Collection, 7 a.m.-2 p.m. [cstx.gov/hhw](http://cstx.gov/hhw), 979.764.3832

Oct. 5 | Wiener Fest, 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m. [aggielandhumane.org](http://aggielandhumane.org), 979.775.5755

Oct. 16 | Exploring History Luncheon, 11:30 a.m., topic: first women accepted to Texas A&M Univ. [mrodgers@cstx.gov](mailto:mrodgers@cstx.gov), 979.764.6351

Oct. 24 - Lincoln Recreation Center's Fall Festival & Haunted House, 5:30-8:30 p.m. [cstx.gov/lincolncenter](http://cstx.gov/lincolncenter), 979.764.3779

Oct. 28-Nov. 15 | Register for Winter Youth Basketball ages 6-16. [cstx.gov/sports](http://cstx.gov/sports), 979.764.3486

Oct. 30 & 31 | "Halloween on 19" classic horror movies shown 24/7 on Suddenlink Channel 19. [cstx.gov/boo](http://cstx.gov/boo), 979.764.3445

Nov. 14 | Exploring History Luncheon, 11:30 a.m., topic: a tribute to military veterans [mrodgers@cstx.gov](mailto:mrodgers@cstx.gov), 979.764.6351

Nov. 15 & 16 | Brazos Valley Worldfest [brazosvalleyworldfest.org](http://brazosvalleyworldfest.org), 979.845.4016

Nov. 28 & 29 | City offices closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

For more events, visit:  
[cstx.gov/calendar](http://cstx.gov/calendar)



January-February 2013

# Inside College Station

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**D**id your New Year's resolution have anything to do with your finances? If so, you're in luck! We've compiled a few helpful suggestions to help whip you into financial shape.

## Become a Certified Homebuyer

Learn more about buying and maintaining a home through the City of College Station's Homebuyer Education course. The four-day course will be Feb. 5, 12, 19 and 26 from 6-7:30 p.m. at Fire Station No. 6 at the corner of University Drive and Tarrow Street. Topics include understanding credit, budgeting, obtaining a mortgage loan, shopping for a home and protecting your investment. Each session is unique and builds upon the last. The cost is \$15, and you must attend all four classes to receive a certificate. Register today at [cstx.gov/homebuyer](http://cstx.gov/homebuyer) or call 979.764.3778.

## Invest in Homeownership

If you're interested in purchasing a home in College Station, you may be eligible for down-payment assistance. Qualified buyers may receive a form of a 0 percent interest deferred loan for up to 15 percent of the home's purchase price. This assistance can be used for down-payment, and up to 30 percent can be used for closing costs, to help lower the cost of homeownership for eligible homebuyers. For more information, visit [cstx.gov/housingassistance](http://cstx.gov/housingassistance) or call Community Development at 979.764.3778.

## Create Financial Goals

The United Way of the Brazos Valley's Financial Fitness Center offers one-on-one financial coaching to help individuals and families develop healthy financial habits, implement effective money management,

build and increase savings, acquire assets and plan for the future. The only cost is a commitment to your own financial goals. To make an appointment or to learn more, call 979.229.8422 or email [szivney@uwbv.org](mailto:szivney@uwbv.org).

## Increase Your Savings

The Individual Development Account is a matched savings account that helps income-eligible families to save money and build assets. A partnership between the United Way of the Brazos Valley and the Brazos Valley Community Action Agency rewards the savings of families who are working towards purchasing an asset, buying their first home, paying for post-secondary education or starting a small business. The program also provides economic literacy training, including workshops for cleaning up personal credit, setting budgets, creating a savings schedule and other basic money management. For more information, contact Tara Lazaro at 979.696.4483 ext. 131 or [ida@bvcaa.org](mailto:ida@bvcaa.org).

## Claim Your Property

According to The Texas Comptroller's Office, one in four Texans has unclaimed property from a forgotten bank account, uncashed checks, security deposits or refunds. In 2012, the state returned more than \$159 million to those who claimed their property. The City of College Station holds unclaimed property, too. To see if you have money waiting for you, check out these resources:

### City of College Station

[cstx.gov/unclaimed](http://cstx.gov/unclaimed) or 979.764.3494

### State of Texas

[cpa.state.tx.us/up](http://cpa.state.tx.us/up) or 1.800.654.FIND

## QUICK LINKS

### Housing Assistance

[cstx.gov/housingassistance](http://cstx.gov/housingassistance)

### Homebuyer Registration

[cstx.gov/homebuyer](http://cstx.gov/homebuyer)



## Recycling Can Be Rewarding

*Discount cards now available for 2013*

The City of College Station offers curbside recycling to single-family homes, duplexes and most fourplexes for free. Items accepted in the Curbside Recycling Program include: white paper, phone books, newspapers, magazines, #1 and #2 plastic, aluminum/tin/steel cans, clear and brown glass, and lead acid car batteries.

Each eligible residence is provided with clear plastic recycling bags to use to sort and store the recyclable materials. Once the bag is full, you can place it on the edge of the curb by 8 a.m. on the scheduled recycling collection day. Recycling collection is provided once a week, on the same day as bulky items and brush collections.

Curbside Recycling participants will also receive a Recycle Rewards card packed with valuable discounts at the following businesses: Newk's Express Café, Naked Fish Sushi & Grill, Café Eccell, La Bodega Baja Taco Bar, Spoons Yogurt, Pita Pit, Potato Shack and U Paint It. Keep Brazos Beautiful also offers a \$10 discount on memberships in the organization. If you already participate in curbside recycling and haven't received a Recycle Rewards Card, please contact Recycling Coordinator Heather Qualls at 979.764.6228 or [hqualls@cstx.gov](mailto:hqualls@cstx.gov).

To start recycling, visit [cstx.gov/recycle](http://cstx.gov/recycle) or call 979.764.6228. We also offer options for businesses and apartments that wish to recycle, please call or go online for details.

## Immunization Clinics at Lincoln Recreation Center

Each Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., the Brazos County Health Department holds immunization clinics at Lincoln Recreation Center, located at 1000 Eleanor Street.

Vaccine Fees (Cash or local checks only):

- Shots for Tots and Teens - \$5
- Td & Tdap - \$10
- Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, MMR, Pneumonia and HPV - \$25
- Meningitis - \$110
- Seasonal Flu Shots - \$20 or Medicare Part B (when available)

For more health-related information, visit [brazoshealth.org](http://brazoshealth.org) or call 979.361.4440.

## Floodplains and Flood Insurance

*What you need to know*

Floodplains are regulatory boundaries established to preserve the flood-carrying capacity of our creeks, channels and rivers. These are established by engineering analysis and reviewed, approved and mapped by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). College Station has special regulations in place to regulate construction and other developments within floodplains to help manage potential dangers associated with flooding. Property owners, renters and businesses can purchase flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) as a result of the City of College Station's floodplain management ordinances. In exchange, the NFIP provides federally-backed flood insurance at affordable rates.

Communities that participate in the NFIP are rated by FEMA through the Community Rating System. FEMA encourages communities to implement floodplain management standards which exceed the minimum NFIP standards. In return, FEMA rewards communities with higher standards by offering a discount on flood insurance policies. The current City of College Station rating is a seven. This rating provides residents with a 15 percent discount on flood insurance policies.

It is important to know that, if you have a mortgage from a federally regulated or insured lender on a home located in a high-risk flood area, federal law requires you to purchase flood insurance. Also, if you've received a federal grant or loan for previous flood losses, you must have a flood policy to qualify for future aid.

Any development in the floodplain without a permit is illegal. To acquire a permit or to report such illegal activity, contact the Planning and Development Department at 979.764.3570. To learn more about floodplains, flood insurance or related information, visit [cstx.gov/floodplains](http://cstx.gov/floodplains).

## events

*February-March*

Register for Xtra Programs | [cstx.gov/xtra](http://cstx.gov/xtra)

Jan. 7 – April 5 | Register for Red Cross Lifeguard Training | [cstx.gov/swim](http://cstx.gov/swim)

Jan. 7 – April 5 | Register for Water Safety Instructor Certification | [cstx.gov/swim](http://cstx.gov/swim)

Jan. 22- Feb. 15 | Register for Youth Golf | [cstx.gov/sports](http://cstx.gov/sports)

Feb. 19 | AARP Driver Safety Course | 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. | e-mail [mrodgers@cstx.gov](mailto:mrodgers@cstx.gov)

Feb. 21 | Annual Soul Food Luncheon | 11 a.m.- 1:30 p.m. | [cstx.gov/lincolncenter](http://cstx.gov/lincolncenter)

Feb. 24- March 8 | Register for Adult Volleyball | Teams: \$210 | [cstx.gov/sports](http://cstx.gov/sports)

March 11 - April 26 | Register for Tsunami Swim Team | [cstx.gov/swim](http://cstx.gov/swim)

March 13 | Kite Building Workshop | 2-4 p.m. | [bcslibrary.org](http://bcslibrary.org)

March 23 | Larry J. Ringer Library Young Readers Book Sale | [bcslibrary.org](http://bcslibrary.org)

March 29 | City Offices Closed for Good Friday. Regular work day for all sanitation collections | [cstx.gov/sanitation](http://cstx.gov/sanitation)

March 29 | Lincoln Recreation Center Annual Easter Egg Hunt | 1-3 p.m. | [cstx.gov/lincolncenter](http://cstx.gov/lincolncenter)

For more events, visit:

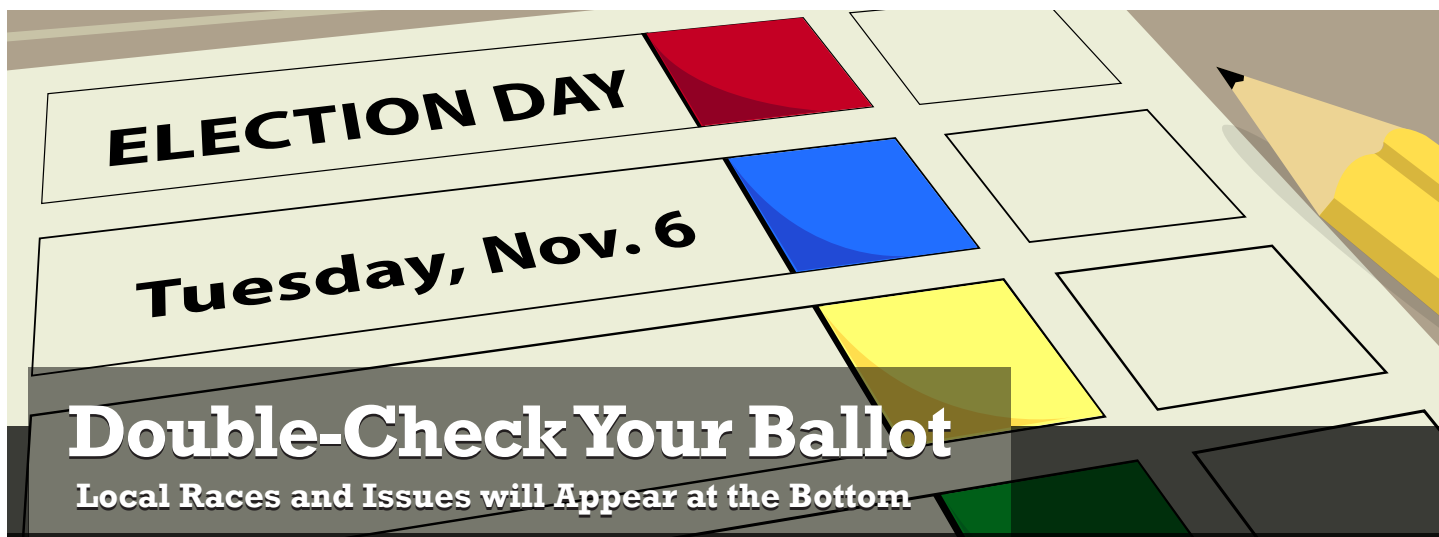
[cstx.gov/calendar](http://cstx.gov/calendar)



October 2012

# Inside College Station

\* \* \* \* \* CITY OF COLLEGE STATION \* Home of Texas A&M University® \* College Station, Texas \* \* \* \* \*



One of our most precious rights as American citizens is voting in local, state and national elections. It is also one of our greatest responsibilities.

In the Nov. 6 election, College Station will not have any contested city council or school board places on the ballot, but voters will decide the fate of nine proposed city charter amendments. When you go to your polling place on Election Day, keep in mind that **local races and issues will be located at the bottom of the ballot.**

## City council/school board races

John Nichols and James Benham are unopposed for the College Station City Council and already have been declared elected. Nichols will fill Katy-Maries Lyles' Place 4 seat and Benham will replace Dave Ruesink in Place 6. Incumbents Carol Barrett and Paul Dorsett also are unopposed for places on the College Station ISD school board.

## City charter amendments

Eight of the nine charter amendments were proposed by the Citizens Charter Review Advisory Commission, which was created in February 2011. The other deals with conflict of interest issues and was added to

the ballot by the city council. Most of the proposed amendments would bring the charter in line with state law.

Amendment No. 1 would add incompetency, official misconduct or malfeasance as grounds for the recall of council members. The other amendments concern council vacancies, an oath of office, franchises and gender-neutral language.

For detailed information on proposed amendments, go to [cstx.gov/elections](http://cstx.gov/elections).

## Early voting

If you might be out of town on Election Day – or to avoid the crowd – you can vote early from Oct. 22-Nov. 2 at any early voting location in Brazos County, including the College Station Utilities Meeting and Training Facility on Graham Road and the Memorial Student Center on the Texas A&M campus.

## Absentee/mail-in ballots

The Brazos County Clerk's Office will accept applications for absentee mail-in ballots through Oct. 30 for voters who will be unable to cast their ballots on Election Day or in the early voting period. The mail-in

option is available to voters who are 65 and older, disabled, confined in jail or will be out of the county.

## Voter registration

To be eligible to vote in November, unregistered residents have until Oct. 9 to submit an application to the Brazos County voter registrar. Applicants must be at least 18 years old and be legal residents of the county.

Convicted felons are ineligible to vote unless they have completed their sentence, including probation and parole. Those declared mentally incompetent also are ineligible.

## Need more info?

For more 2012 election information and polling places, go to [brazosvotes.org](http://brazosvotes.org).

## QUICK LINKS >>>

### Charter Amendments

[cstx.gov/elections](http://cstx.gov/elections)

### Election Information

[brazosvotes.org](http://brazosvotes.org)

## Community Development

### *Housing Assistance Now Available*

The following housing assistance programs are available through City of College Station Community Development:

**MINOR REPAIR ASSISTANCE** is provided through a grant of up to \$5,000 on owner-occupied homes that require necessary but basic repairs. Eligible repairs include: the replacement of an air conditioner or heater, repair to plumbing or electrical systems, or other minor repairs necessary to ensure safe living conditions for the home owner.

**REHABILITATION LOAN ASSISTANCE** provides up to \$50,000 maximum to rehabilitate owner-occupied homes in the City of College Station. Assistance is provided in the form of a loan; half of the loan will be forgiven monthly over a 10-year period and half will be repaid to the city monthly with a low interest rate.

**RECONSTRUCTION LOAN ASSISTANCE** provides up to \$110,000 maximum to demolish and reconstruct dilapidated, owner-occupied homes that do not qualify for Rehabilitation Assistance in the City of College Station. Assistance is provided in the form of a loan; half of the loan, not to exceed \$40,000, will be forgiven monthly over a 15-year period and the remainder will be repaid to the city monthly with a low interest rate.

**DOWN PAYMENT ASSISTANCE** is in the form of a 0 percent interest deferred loan for up to 15 percent of the purchase price of the home. This assistance can be used for down-payment and up to 30 percent can be used for closing costs for any home in College Station. This helps to lower the cost of homeownership for eligible homebuyers.

**PRICE REDUCED:** The city has reduced the price on two homes for sale to income eligible households – applicants purchasing one of these homes will receive enhanced Down Payment Assistance of 20 percent of the sales price: 1208 Phoenix - \$104,900 and 1022 Crested Point - \$124,900.

For more information, call the Community Development Office at 979-764-3778 or go to [cstx.gov/housingassistance](http://cstx.gov/housingassistance).

## Water IQ

### *A seasonal water tip*

Want another way to raise your Water IQ and lower your utility bill? The 'seasonal adjust' feature on your sprinkler controller can help! With cool weather approaching, you can cut back on landscape irrigation. An easy way to do this—without reprogramming your controller – is to use the Seasonal Adjust feature. Many controllers have this option. This feature automatically reduces the run time as weather conditions change – and all you have to do is push a button.

As a rule of thumb, set the seasonal adjust percentage as follows: winter 30 percent, spring 70 percent, summer 100 percent, and fall 70 percent. At 100 percent, all stations will run for their full programmed time. For example, if the front lawn is scheduled to be watered for 20 minutes in the summer, setting the seasonal adjust feature at 70 percent will automatically reduce run time to 14 minutes.

Does your irrigation controller have a backup battery? It should! Without a battery backup, in the event of a power outage, all of your water settings—including the seasonal adjustment – will be lost and you'll have to adjust the controller again.

To learn more, visit [cstx.gov/water](http://cstx.gov/water) or call Jennifer Nations, Water Resource Coordinator, at 979-764-6223.

## Start Recycling Today!

### *City offers curbside service*

The City of College Station offers curbside recycling to single-family homes, duplexes and most fourplexes for free. Items accepted in the Curbside Recycling Program include: white paper, phone books, newspapers, magazines, #1 and #2 plastic, aluminum/tin/steel cans, clear and brown glass, and lead acid car batteries.

Each eligible residence is provided with clear plastic recycling bags to use to sort and store the recyclable materials. Once the bag is full, you can just place it on the edge of the curb by 8 a.m. on the scheduled recycling collection day. Recycling collection is provided once a week, on the same day as bulky items and brush collections.

Signing up is easy! Just visit [cstx.gov/recycle](http://cstx.gov/recycle) or call 979.764.6228. We also offer options for businesses and apartments that wish to recycle, please call or go online for details!

## events

### *coming in November*

**Nov. 6 – GREEN SEMINAR**  
5:30 p.m., Public Works Office  
Topic: Green Gifting. RSVP  
at [cstx.gov/recycle](http://cstx.gov/recycle)

**Nov. 8 & 19 – City Council Meetings | Workshop at 6 p.m. and Regular at 7 p.m.**

**Nov. 10 – BRAZOS VALLEY WORLDVEST, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**  
Wolf Pen Creek Park.  
[brazosvalleyworldvest.org](http://brazosvalleyworldvest.org)

**Nov. 12-30 – YOUTH BASKETBALL REGISTRATION**  
PreK- 8th grade. \$60 per child.  
8 games, begins Jan 7.  
[cstx.gov/sports](http://cstx.gov/sports)

**Nov. 14 – EXPLORING HISTORY LUNCH LECTURE**  
Presidential Regrets with their Supreme Court Nominations by William T. Harper  
Aldersgate United Methodist Church | 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
\$5 per person | RSVP by Nov. 9 at 979.764.6351 or email [kkelbly@cstx.gov](mailto:kkelbly@cstx.gov)

**Nov. 22 & 23 – City Offices Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday.**  
*No Recycling. All other sanitation collected one day BEHIND scheduled collection day.*

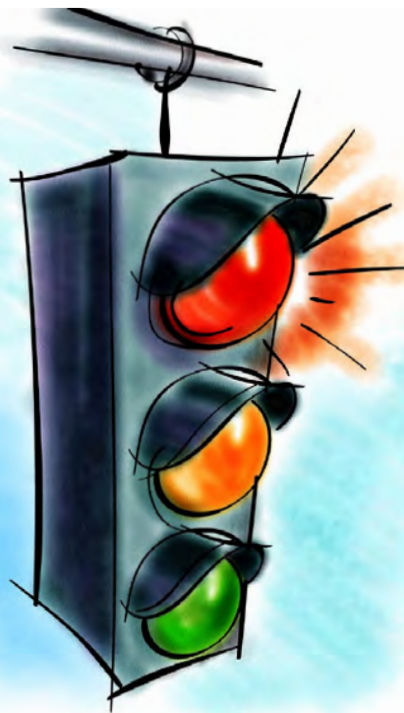
**Nov. 30-Dec. 1 – CHRISTMAS AT THE CREEK | 6-9 p.m.**  
at Wolf Pen Creek Park.  
Entertainment, Santa photos, hayrides, food and more. Free admission. Park at Post Oak Mall.  
[cstx.gov/christmas](http://cstx.gov/christmas)



May 2012

# Inside College Station

\* \* \* \* \* CITY OF COLLEGE STATION \* Home of Texas A&M University® \* College Station, Texas \* \* \* \* \*



## What's up with that Traffic Signal?

*Keeping College Station's traffic signals operating efficiently is a bigger job than you think.*

The city's Traffic Division maintains and operates 70 traffic signals, 50 pedestrian/school zone flashers, more than 12,000 traffic signs and over 100 miles of long line pavement markings.

### Monthly Inspections

City crews inspect the signals each month to make sure vehicle detection, signal indications and pedestrian pushbuttons are operating properly. Signal cabinets are also cleaned regularly, and exhaust fans are checked along with the date, time and coordination program.

We use three types of vehicle detection, which include in-ground loops, video and radar detection. Technicians repair most problems on the spot through our monthly preventative maintenance program, keeping after-hour calls to a minimum and maintaining the level of safety you expect.

### Technology Saves Money

Our biggest cost savers are Light

Emitting Diodes (LEDs), which are used in all but four of the city's traffic signals. Typically, the LEDs trim electric power consumption by about 75 percent per signal. In pedestrian signals, we use LEDs with countdown timers as an additional safety component.

About 25 percent of our signal system is equipped with Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) units that keep the signal operating for six hours or more if we lose power.

### Retiming Improves Traffic Flow

Our engineers keep a close eye on traffic patterns and frequently retime the signals along the city's major arteries, which is a cost effective way to significantly reduce wait time and help traffic move smoothly. One recent synchronization reduced travel time by 40 percent during the evening rush hour and by 24 percent during the peak morning time.

However, retiming the signals along major roadways such as Texas Avenue is not a simple task. We must consider such factors as pedestrians, cars entering

and exiting businesses, preemption by emergency vehicles, construction projects and the amount of traffic on intersecting streets – as many as 50,000 vehicles a day. Every second of green we give drivers on Texas Avenue adds a second of red to those on intersecting streets.

### Other Challenges

Our traffic signals use a preemption system to allow emergency vehicles the right-of-way by stopping conflicting traffic. The railroad tracks in the Wellborn Road corridor also present challenges since trains preempt the signal's normal operation. As many as 20 trains have been known to pass through the area in a 24-hour period, and once a signal is preempted, it can take four or five cycles for it to get back into coordination.

### Safety and Efficiency

The Traffic Division strives to maintain a safe and efficient transportation system while improving mobility through new technologies and well-trained technicians. Our mission is to reduce commuting time, reduce fuel consumption and emissions, and keep your transportation system safe.

The City of College Station is committed to the safety of the motoring public, cyclists and pedestrians.

This is accomplished through an aggressive, preventative maintenance program and timely emergency response.

To read more information about traffic signal operations in College Station, visit [cstx.gov/publicworks](http://cstx.gov/publicworks).

**QUICK LINKS >>>**

[cstx.gov/publicworks](http://cstx.gov/publicworks)



## NEW Golf Camp for Kids

*June & July*

City of College Station Parks and Recreation Department is offering a brand-new golf camp for kids throughout June and July. There are two to choose from:

### Starting New At Golf Camp (SNAG)

*Ages 5-11 years*

Developed by golf professionals, SNAG is specifically designed for the entry-level player. Participants will learn solid fundamentals with an emphasis on golf technique and swing mechanics. Course fee is \$120. Available Sessions: June 13-15, June 20-22, June 27-29, July 18-20 or July 25-27.

### Junior Golf Players Camp

*Ages 8-16 years*

This is the perfect camp for those who want to learn the different formats of competitive golf, course management and mental strategies. Participants must have some golf experience and be able to carry their own golf bag for nine holes. Course fee is \$165. Available Sessions: June 13-15, June 20-22 or June 27-29.

Registration is going on now and will close once classes are full. You can register at [rectrac.cstx.gov](http://rectrac.cstx.gov) or visit the Stephen C. Beachy Central Park Office, located at 1000 Krenek Tap Road in College Station, Monday–Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

## Address Placement Standards

*New requirements*

Here's a friendly reminder about our Building and Fire Code requirements for address placement in College Station.

Official building addresses should be placed in a position that is clearly visible from the roadway fronting the property. The address

characters must be a minimum of four inches in height, of a color that provides a contrast to the background and placed at a minimum of 36 inches and a maximum of 30 feet from ground level. If the structure is located more than 50 feet from the street curb then the address characters should be at least five inches in height.

For single-family residences, these requirements can be met by placing numbers that are more than two inches in height on both sides of a U.S. mailbox, or a freestanding structure with numbers at least four inches in height.

Building complexes must have the suite or unit numbers and the street address number on each structure, where they are visible from the nearest public street or designated fire lane.

Commercial buildings must display the business name and official address with characters at least two inches in height on all access doors, including side and rear ones.

These requirements are checked and enforced during the final inspection of new construction, by code enforcement officers or by inspectors from the Fire Marshal's Office during their annual inspection.

For more information regarding these standards, please contact Planning and Development Services at **979-764-3570**.

## Storm Drains and Waterways

*Remove pollutants*

Storm drains have a direct connection to lakes, rivers and oceans. They are designed to prevent flooding when heavy rains occur. Rain water washes over streets and into the drains where underground pipes transport it into area creeks, rivers and lakes.

Litter, pet waste, dirt, fertilizers, antifreeze and motor oils are just a few examples of contaminants that enter our waterways through storm drains on neighborhood streets. Keep our waterways clean by:

- Following lawn fertilizer package recommendations during treatment;

- Composting your yard waste; and
- Using a commercial car wash that treats or recycles wastewater.

For more clean water tips and stormwater information, visit [brazoscleanwater.org](http://brazoscleanwater.org).

## events

*coming in June*

### AQUATIC EVENTS [cstx.gov/pools](http://cstx.gov/pools)

#### June 2 | Back to Pools Day

Beach-themed party with games from 2–4 p.m. at Adamson Lagoon.

#### June 6 | Aquatic Honor Roll

A/B CSISD honor roll gets in free at all pools! Must bring report card.

#### June 7,14,21,28 | Family Nights

Families get half-price admission at Adamson Lagoon, 7:30–9:30 p.m.

#### June 13 | CSISD School Shirt Day

Get half-price admission with CSISD shirt at Adamson Lagoon.

#### June 17 | Happy Father's Day

Dads get in free at all pools.

#### June 27 | Shipwrecked Lagoon

Dress like a pirate and get in free from 2-4 p.m. at Adamson Lagoon.

### JUNE EVENTS [cstx.gov/calendar](http://cstx.gov/calendar)

#### June 2,16 – Starlight Music Series

at Wolf Pen Creek Amphitheater. Gates open 6 p.m. Free for all ages. [cstx.gov/starlight](http://cstx.gov/starlight)

#### June 9 & 10–21 – Rod Run

Stephen C. Beachy Central Park [cstx.gov/bluebonnetstreetrodders.com](http://cstx.gov/bluebonnetstreetrodders.com)

#### June 14,15,18,19 – Juneteenth

Celebration by Lincoln Rec. Center [cstx.gov/lincolncenter](http://cstx.gov/lincolncenter)

#### June 20 – Exploring History Lunch

Lecture Series presents Reliving Texas History: Muskets, Cannons & Knives, by Dr. Lou Hodges at 11:30 a.m., CS Conference Center. RSVP by June 19 to Kelly Kelbly at 979-764-6351 or [kkelbly@cstx.gov](mailto:kkelbly@cstx.gov).