



February 2009

Inside College Station

From the City of College Station, Home of Texas A&M University • College Station, Texas



of five or more persons or for select new homes sponsored by the City of College Station.

Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Minor Repair Assistance

Reconstruction assistance includes up to an \$85,000 maximum reconstruction cost. For households with five members or more, or with handicapped or special needs there is an additional \$5,000 available.

Rehabilitation assistance offers up to \$35,000 maximum to rehab owner-occupied homes. The additional \$5,000 is also available for this program as in the reconstructions assistance.

Minor repair assistance is also available for up to \$3,000 on owner-occupied homes that require necessary but minor repairs. This assistance is provided in the form of a grant requiring no repayment. This might be used to replace an air conditioner, heater, plumbing or other function necessary for safe living conditions.

If you are the employer or acquaintance of someone you might benefit from these programs, please make them aware of these possibilities.

If you are interested in one of these programs for your own family, please contact the College Station Economic and Community Development Department at 979-764-3778. Go to the department website at www.cstx.gov.

City Offers Affordable Housing Assistance

Now may be the best time ever to consider purchasing or improving your home. Interest rates are some of the lowest in history, which will help eligible lower-income residents take advantage of programs that will allow them to invest in a home.

Owner-occupied home investment is still considered one of the best investments for households planning to remain in the home at least 5 years.

College Station's Economic and Community Development Department offers programs to assist lower-income families with owner occupied homes in College Station. The department is offering the following programs to eligible residents, including eligible City of College Station employees:

- 1) Down Payment Assistance
- 2) Reconstruction, Rehabilitation or Minor Repair Assistance

Below are the maximum allowable in-

come limits for resident households to be eligible for these programs:

In Home	Income Limit
1 person	\$31,250
2 persons	\$35,700
3 persons	\$40,200
4 persons	\$44,650
5 persons	\$48,200
6 persons	\$51,800
7 persons	\$55,350
8 persons	\$58,950

Down Payment Assistance

If you are considering purchasing a home within the College Station city limits, you intend to occupy that home as your principal residence for at least 5 years, and your income meets the eligibility criteria, then you might qualify for this program.

It offers a deferred loan of up to 10% of the purchase price, with a maximum of \$10,000 for households of 1-4 persons, or up to \$14,999 for households

For more about affordable Housing Assistance, go to:

www.cstx.gov/housingassistance



Building Relationships

On December 19, Mayor Ben White and staff visited the Lofts at Wolf Pen Creek and Lawyers Title Company building sites to tour projects in progress and visit with contractors. The new program called *Building Relationships* aims to improve

communication between local builders and City staff. For more information, call Chris Haver at 979-764-6254.

Wind Watts Sponsors Aggie Men's Basketball -----



The City of College Station and Wind Watts energy program were the official sponsors of the Aggie-Baylor Men's Basketball game at Reed Arena on January 14. City officials took part in halftime activities by participating in a dance contest and promoting Wind Watts by giving T-shirts to all dancers.

For more information on Wind Watts, go to www.cstx.gov/ucs.

Christmas Tree Recycling --



As part of its *Green College Station* campaign, the City hosted a tree recycling event at Stephen C. Beachy Central Park, January 10, in an effort

to save landfill space and encourage recycling. To learn more, call 979-764-6299 or go to www.cstx.gov/recycle.

Warrant Amnesty -----

In an effort to clear thousands of outstanding warrants totaling millions of dollars from the City of College Station and Brazos County offices, a warrant amnesty period has been scheduled for February 16-27.

The amnesty period allows citizens with outstanding warrants to avoid paying a \$50 (per case) warrant fee if fines are paid in full. Following the warrant amnesty period, there will be a warrant round-up March 2-13.

Citizens uncertain whether they have outstanding warrants should contact the court where they think a case may exist. The College Station Municipal Court number is 979-764-3683.

Get Paid to Save Energy --

Did you know that your central air conditioning system is one of the largest energy consumers in your home? By replacing your central system with a high-efficiency unit, you can cut costs and get cash back from College Station Utilities.

Air conditioner efficiencies are based on SEER (Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio) value. The higher the SEER value, the more efficiently the unit operates. See below how SEER can affect a typical

3-ton central air conditioning system in the summer months.

Air Conditioning Summer Operating Cost



College Station Utilities offers cash rebates to single family residential customers who install complete system 14 SEER or greater central air conditioners, air-to-air heat pumps, or geothermal heat pumps in existing local homes.

Replacement systems must be sized no more than 12,000 BTU's (1-Ton) for every 500 square feet of conditioned space. For more information, call College Station Utilities at 979-764-3724 or go online to www.cstx.gov/utilities.

NOTICE TO ALL COLLEGE STATION LANDLORDS

Rental Registration Begins March 1. The City of College Station will begin registering all rental properties that are Single Family and Duplex Dwelling Units on March 1, 2009. The fee will be \$15 annually, property owners will be required to identify a local point of contact, and will have 90 days to voluntarily apply.

Applications may be completed online at www.cstx.gov/rentalregistration, via postal service, or by walk-in to the Planning and Development Office. Questions and answers will be handled by phone at 979-764-3570 or by email at rentalregistration@cstx.gov.

This program was adopted by the City Council on December 16, 2008 under ordinance #3151, Chapter 4, Business Regulations. Failure to comply is a violation of City Code.