

**City Business
Progress Report**
by Michael Leamons

Safe Routes to School. The specialty handrail required by the Waco TxDOT office and manufactured by Hico Hand Rail has been installed at College and Hwy. 281. The project has now been completed.

Paving Project. Century Link finished moving its poles out of the ditch along Pecan Street. Atmos Energy determined its gas main along Pecan Street needs to be replaced. That will keep Express Paving from beginning its work on Pecan until the middle of April, though it could begin work on other streets a week or two beforehand.

T-Ball Field. Much of the Elm Street Field has been disassembled. The Baseball Association and the City are working to relocate the T-Ball Field to the Utility Street Ball Field Complex. The Baseball Association decided to enlarge the T-Ball Field so that it could accommodate older players. So, the field has been expanded from a depth of 125' to 180'. As a result, a couple of pieces of playground equipment are being relocated and the layout for a new rose bed is being re-worked. The 180' deep field handily fits the area between the existing field, the concession stand and the hike and bike trail.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Project. The CDBG Project to replace the Highway 6 Lift Station with a gravity flow wastewater line is moving forward. KSA Engineers' revised plans to address TxDOT's Hwy 6 right-of-way concerns have been submitted. Once they are approved, the project can be put out for bids. It is expected the project will be awarded during April.

Wastewater Main to serve the Poplar Court Subdivision. The City is in the process of closing on a 50' wide piece of property to extend from Iredell Road to Highway 6. Initially, the City was planning on purchasing only a utility right-of-way; then, it was determined that without much more expense, a 50' roadway could be secured to accommodate the wastewater line and to allow for a future extension of Poplar to Highway 6. The new wastewater main will tie into a manhole associated with the above CDBG Project. Once the final CDBG plans have been approved, the City will be able to go out for bids on the new wastewater main which will serve the Poplar Court Subdivision. Two houses are currently under construction in the subdivision, but they will be served by an existing wastewater line on Magnolia. The new main will provide gravity flow service, a far better alternative to lift stations with their perpetual maintenance and operation costs, to the lots fronting on Poplar Court, Iredell Road and Poplar Street.

Hico Cleanup Day. City staff is working with the Hico Beautification Board to provide an opportunity for the citizens of Hico to do some cleanup on the morning of Saturday, March 19th. Four roll-off containers are being made available, so space will be limited. Those of you who live in the County, out of respect for your friends and neighbors who live within the city limits of Hico please recognize, indeed, the dumpster space will be limited and that what will be available will have been paid for with the tax dollars of the citizens of Hico. If you live in the County and would like to participate in a free cleanup, work with your County Commissioners Court to organize one to be paid for by County tax dollars. A City water bill or wanted poster is required to establish proof of residence.

Junked Vehicle Sweep. The City has learned of several individuals who either are planning to remove, or are in the process of removing, their junked vehicles. Bright removal tags have been ordered which will be affixed to those junked vehicles still in town when the sweep begins. Once an individual is served with official notice to remove a junked vehicle, that individual will only have 10 days to take action. Why wait till the last minute? If everything goes according to plan, the Sweep is expected to conclude on April 13th when citizens formally objecting to removal orders will be given an opportunity to have a hearing before Municipal Judge Charlie Buenger.

May God bless the City of Hico.