

B-CS animal shelter stays busy, director urges owners to tag pets

by Mary Laura McNair

Battalion Reporter
Bryan, College Station and Brazos County have joined together to try to solve a common problem — animal control. A possible solution to this problem is the Brazos County Animal Shelter which is a non-profit corporation supported by all three governments.

Bryan Mayor Ron Blatchley said that since the shelter opened in January it has helped decrease the number of stray animals on the city's streets.

The decision to support the shelter was made before Blatchley took office and he said that it is something that is definitely needed in the area.

Captain M. Newton of the College Station Police Department agrees with Blatchley and says the shelter helps pet owners locate their lost animals.

"Before the shelter opened," he said, "when people lost their animals they had to check with various places because when the

officer would pick up an animal he would take it to one of two veterinarians. Now, all they have to do is call or go out to the shelter."

Newton said when the animal control program in College Station began in 1966 it had one officer and now it has two with dual duties.

"While one officer is giving parking tickets at Northgate, the other officer is answering calls concerning stray animals or lost pets," Newton said. "They switch duties each month."

The animal control program is busy and Newton said he attributes this to the growth of College Station.

"In July we answered 1,067 calls about animals," he said. "Last July, we answered 982 calls."

Executive director of the shelter, Kathy Ricker, said the three governments are helping the most with the shelter because they pay for all the impounded animals that are not claimed.

"Depending on where the

animal was picked up," Ricker said, "the city of Bryan, College Station or the county pays \$5 a day for three days."

Bryan has more than 50 percent of the use of the facility, she said, and each government is billed monthly for the animals picked up in their area.

"If Bryan has 500 dogs here for three days," she said, "that

"It's very frustrating to love animals and to be here and not be able to find the owner ..."

1,500 animal days multiplied by \$5 is a lot of money. So they're paying over \$2,000 a month easily to help maintain our staff, feed the animals and pay the bills."

Ricker said the three governments pay for use of the facilities but 15 percent of the animals in

the shelter are brought in from six other counties. When people bring in animals from outside Brazos County, they are asked for a donation.

"We receive \$5 and \$10 at a time in donations," Ricker said. "We operate on donations, impounding fees and the money paid by owners claiming their pets. As a matter of fact, the last \$40,000 of construction was done by donations."

The shelter was in the planning stage for 10 years, she said. "It has been 10 years of fund raising, getting the governments together, getting contracts signed and getting the building built," Ricker said. "The Humane Society raised money actively for the last two years to the tune of about \$2,000."

Ricker said that she gets a lot of help at the shelter from the volunteer program.

"We either have feast or famine," she said. "We either have a lot of help or no help."

The problem with a volunteer program is that volunteers are

not obligated to stay and sometimes leave at inconvenient times, Ricker said.

"Our volunteers range from high school students, to Texas A&M students, and from people who are on probation for different offenses," she said. "They range in age from eight to 70."

The public can join the volunteer program by keeping their pets tagged, and by neutering them, she said.

"People can come by the shelter and buy animal tags for \$5 which supports the shelter," Ricker said. "Right now, less than 10 percent of the animals have tags. It's very frustrating to love animals and to be here and not be able to find the owner, especially when the owner doesn't care enough to come look for their pets."

As long as it continues to have the support of the three governments and as long as facilities do not have to be expanded, the shelter should have no more problems, Ricker said.

Arby's Satisfies The Aggie Appetite.

Arby's®
You said a mouthfull!

Southwest Parkway / College Station
(Next to Pelican's Wharf)

- User groups which expect to attract more than 50 individuals are required to pay a \$100 deposit.
- All users must leave the facilities in the same condition as when they arrived.
- Before leaving the premises after the event, the users or their agents will remove any litter deposited by them in the parking lot.
- For a group of 100 or more, a police officer must be present.
- The building closes at 11 p.m. weekdays and 1 a.m. weekends.

Although the rates and fees charged to use the facility are set according to the type of group utilizing it, Calliham said the center is open to any individual or group.

"Non-commercial groups, such as organizers of local civic events and educators, make use of our facilities more than any others," she said.

Calliham said the center plans to build another facility behind the present one primarily to host youth activities.



Park facilities upgraded

Battalion Reporter
The College Station Parks and Recreation Department is building a new athletic park in Southwood Valley and is conducting a Neighborhood Parks Improvement Project, a park planner says.

The first College Station park was constructed in 1938 and the Parks and Recreation Department has continued improving, planning and constructing parks since then.

The new multi-million dollar athletic park sits on 47 acres. Proposed facilities for the park include four little league fields, seven senior league fields, seven tennis courts, two soccer fields, a basketball court and, possibly a wave pool, Carlos Mendez said.

Also in the master plan of the park, but not planned for construction for several years, are a gymnasium and a tennis pro-shop, Mendez said.

Construction of the parking lots and baseball fields already begun and is scheduled to be completed by baseball season next year, Mendez said.

The park's planned completion date is August 1984.

The Neighborhood Parks Improvement Project currently is under way adding playgrounds, enlarging ponds, building decks

and improving lots on 10 area parks.

The project is designed to improve established parks which lack adequate facilities.

With a total of 24 parks in College Station, there should be a park for everyone's needs, but if not, the parks and recreation department is happy to hear suggestions and/or complaints, Mendez said.

"We keep an open door policy in parks and recreation. The city is growing, but our department is still small enough to do business on a one-to-one basis," he said.

Mendez encourages all citizens to take part in the decisions involving their parks and neighborhood. The community is invited to Parks Advisory Board and city council meetings where proposals for improvements or construction are brought, he said.

In College Station there are arboretums and nature trails to explore, jogging and exercise trails to attempt and beautiful parks to enjoy.

The parks in College Station are designed to serve the needs of the community, Mendez said. The parks range from passive recreation areas complete with picnic and open nature areas to

athletic parks for softball, soccer or basketball.

Both Bee Creek and Thomas parks have swimming pools. The pools are open Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 1 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. and on Monday and Wednesday from 1 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.

The center has revised some of its policies for use of the auditorium. The new policies are:

Center offers facilities, activities to community

Battalion Reporter
Last June, the College Station Community Center opened its doors to the public. Since then, the director of the center says, it has been more than just a meeting place.

"The community center has helped to promote tourism in Brazos county by attracting groups from other parts of the state," Peggy L. Calliham said.

Funds from the city hotel-motel tax, collected since 1973, have been used to help promote the College Station area as a tourist center. The tax also provides funds for the Arts Council of Brazos Valley to promote the arts and humanities.

"The center held an open house for arts and crafts December 1982, which was attended by 800 to 900 people," Calliham said. "The art works on exhibit were provided by the College Station arts council."

This summer the center, located on Jersey Avenue, sponsored a fiber design competition to promote community involvement. The winning design became a wall hanging for the center's auditorium.

Center offers facilities, activities to community

PO-BOY TIRE CO.

Sale! Roll-Out Prices

MARK G/P	MARK G/P RADIAL		NON RADIAL	
	NEW	USED	RADIAL RECAPS	RADIAL RECAPS
LR-78-15	77.54	22.50	41.88	36.75
HR-78-15	72.76	22.50	41.88	36.75
GR-78-15	70.25	17.50	41.88	36.75
FR-78-15	67.83	17.50	41.88	36.75
GR-78-14	69.05	17.50	41.88	36.75
FR-78-14	66.62	17.50	41.88	36.75
BR-78-13	59.00	12.50		

Fleet Discounts

2804 Finfeather Bryan, TX

KELLY-SPRINGFIELD TIRES

NO CHARGE FOR: INSTALLATION STEMS BALANCING 775-2306

99¢

Good with Coupon Only

FIRST WEEK'S RENT

On Any Product While Offer Lasts.

- ★ No Financing Necessary
- ★ No Long Term Obligation
- ★ Delivery and Service Included
- ★ Rent-To-Own Plan

Name brands like:
• RCA • Whirlpool • Gibson
• Fisher • GE • Hotpoint
• Sansui

RENT BY PHONE. CALL NOW FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY
* Two Weeks Minimum Rental.

AMERICA'S LARGEST RENT-TO-OWN SYSTEM

COLORTYME

TV • Video • Audio • Appliances™
WE'RE RIGHT FOR THE TIMES

900 Harvey Rd. Post Oak Village C.S. 764-1100

209 N. Main Downtown Bryan 775-7757