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

by Mary Laura McNair

Battalion Reporter

Bryan, College Station and azos County have joined ther to try to solve a comn problem — animal control. A possible solution to this m is the Brazos County imal Shelter which is a nonfit corporation supported by hree governments.

Bryan Mayor Ron Blatchley that since the shelter ed in January it has helped ease the number of stray als on the city's streets.

The decision to support the eler was made before Blatchook office and he said that it nething that is definitely ded in the area.

Captain M. Newton of the llege Station Police Depart-nt agrees with Blatchley and sthe shelter helps pet owners ocate their losts animals.

Before the shelter opened," aid, "when people lost their mals they had to check with places because when the

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to do is call or go out to the day for three days. shelter.

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

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

The animal control program is busy and Newton said he attributes this to the growth of Col-

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

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

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

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

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.

officer would pick up an animal he would take it to one of two veternarians. Now, all they have animal was picked up," Ricker said, "the city of Bryan, College bring in animals from outside bring in animals animal was picked up," Ricker said, "the city of Bryan, College bring in animals from outside bring in animal was picked up," Ricker said, "the city of Bryan, College bring in animals from outside bring in animals animal was picked up," Ricker said, "the city of Bryan, College bring in animals animal was picked up," Ricker said, "the city of Bryan, College bring in animals from outside bring in animals and the proposition of the country pays \$5 a." 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.

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

The problem with a volunteer

The problem with a volunteer

The problem with a volunteer

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 program is that volunteers are problems, Ricker said.



ing up for S give either Park facilities upgraded

by Pam Barnes

Battalion Reporter
The College Station Parks and ling all the Recreation Department is build-ation number by a new athletic park in Southecreation Department is buildwod Valley and is conducting a ys StarTel Meighborhood Parks Improve-telephones ment Project, a park planner

The first College Station park r no obligates constructed in 1938 and the vice for any Parks and Recreation Departof time. The ment has continued improving, anytime was anning and constructing

The new multi-million dollar bletic park sits on 47 acres. posed facilities for the park lude four little league fields, , says, "Wea senior league fields, seven mis courts, two soccer fields, a sketball court and possibly a

e only touch tave pool, Carlos Mendez said.
Also in the master plan of the rk, but not planned for conuction for several years, are a masium and a tennis pro-, Mendez said

struction of the parking and baseball fields already egun and is scheduled to be pleted by baseball season year, Mendez said ne park's planned comple-

late is August 1984 he Neighborhood Parks Imement Project currently is ler way adding playgrounds,

and improving lots on 10 area athletic parks for softball, soccer

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

With a total of 24 parks in Col-

lege 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 ness on a one-to-one basis," he

Mendez encourages 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 improveor 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

Center offers facilities, activities to community

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 meet-

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 a 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, sponto build another facility behind sored a fiber design competition the present one primarily to host to promote community involvement. The winning design became a wall hanging for the center's auditorium.

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

• User groups which expect to attract more than 50 individuals are required to pay a \$100 de-

• 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

• 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.

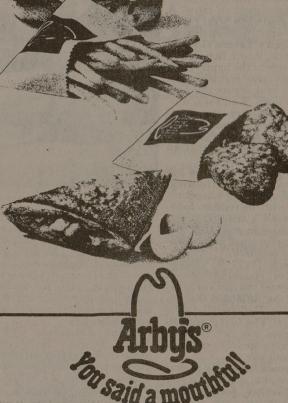
Although the rates and fees charged to use the facility are set according to the type of group utilizing it, Calliham said the center is open to any individual or group. "Non-commercial

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

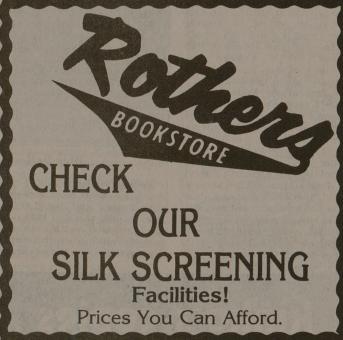
Calliham said the center plans

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