

State and Local

FAA grants \$694,000 to Easterwood

Local airport to extend runway

By JENS B. KOEPKE
Staff Writer

the \$24 million master plan for improvements at Easterwood.

"It's a great pleasure to receive this official notification and the money," A&M President Frank Vandiver told Barton. "You and Sen. Gramm have done marvelous work for us."

Barton told representatives from Bryan, College Station, the Chamber of Commerce and the University that their efforts were instrumental in securing the added funding.

"This (airport improvement) is a very vital part of any future growth of the area," he said.

Local governments have contributed \$230,000 for improvements over the past five years.

"We in the city of Bryan feel that the contributions that we make to this airport are not a contribution, but an investment," Bryan Mayor Marvin Tate said.

In a question-and-answer session following the announcement, Barton confirmed that American Eagle Airlines will be serving this area as soon as the new runway is completed.

Cargill said the airline will make a public announcement on Oct. 2.

The runway extension is part of



Photo by GREG BAILEY

University President Frank E. Vandiver (left) thanks Rep. Joe Barton for announcing the funding increase for the Easterwood Airport.

Easterwood Airport has been granted an additional \$694,090 for airport improvements by the Federal Aviation Agency, U.S. Rep. Joe Barton announced at a news conference Friday.

This funding, together with an earlier \$722,488 grant, brings the total federal contribution to the project to \$1.4 million.

Barton said he expects the airport to get another \$700,000 from the FAA in fiscal 1986.

The funds were taken from a dedicated trust fund and must be spent on airport improvement projects.

The \$694,090 will be applied toward the \$6.4 million contract for airport improvements awarded in April by the Board of Regents to a Waco construction firm.

The improvements include extending the north-south runway from 5,200 feet to 7,000 feet.

Charles Cargill, Texas A&M vice president for operations, said the runway is being extended to accommodate larger aircraft and should be ready in February or March 1986.

The runway extension is part of

Aggieland Cat Fancier's club becomes reality

By PAULA SAYRE
Reporter

That would be ideal, because putting on a show takes a lot of work.

"We're trying to get members that are not only breeders, but also people that just have cats," Schaeffer says. "Or even people that are down here for school that don't have their cat here but would be interested in getting to know more about cats and helping with the cat shows."

A cat show would be good for the community and the veterinary school because most people have never seen the different breeds, Schaeffer says.

The club's cat show is scheduled for March 8-9. Entry fees run close to \$40 a weekend for a purebred cat, but for those who want to show their household pets, the fee will be somewhere between \$7.50 and \$10, she says. Household pets are welcome at the cat show, as long as they are free of fleas and ear mites and have had their vaccinations, Schaeffer says.

"I think we'll probably have a more active club than most," she says. "I'd like to have 50 members.

"Some of the clubs seem to ignore the household pet, and that's where you're going to get your support," Schaeffer says. "It's usually your people that have just household cats, just cat cats, that end up buying the purebred cats later, at some point or another."

It's difficult, though, for renters to have cats because most complexes want as much as \$150 deposit for each pet owned, Schaeffer says.

"We might be able to convince some people, like the apartment owners, that there are such things as responsible pet owners," Schaeffer says. "I know they have a lot of trouble, and I don't blame them really, but there are some people that are responsible pet owners and I think they should be treated as such."

The club is also concerned with cat health and population control.

"One wives' tale is that cats can't get rabies," Schaeffer says. "They

can get rabies just like any other warm-blooded animal."

She also says many people think cats don't need vaccinations because the cat can take care of itself, which Schaeffer says isn't true.

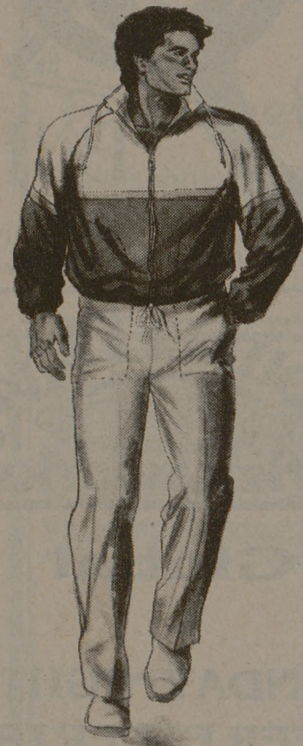
"A lot of people think, 'Well, we want to have one litter for our kids to watch,' or something," she says. "Well, you may be able to find a home for all those kittens and spade your cat and everything's fine and dandy, but how can you guarantee that each of these kittens will be spayed and their kittens down the line?"

"It doesn't take long for you to have one cat that had one litter end up three years down the line with 300 cats just because they decided they'd breed their cat one time."

The club will help dispel these common beliefs by inviting veterinarians to speak at club meetings about cat care, Schaeffer says.

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