

TECHNOCAR

Continued from Page 1

three-step process in February. A major feature of the system is the global-positioning system, which identifies the exact location of the vehicle. This information is most important when police are filing accident reports, he said.

Emergency medical personnel will also be able to use the information to get to the scene of the accident more quickly.

The officer can receive coordinates through the hand-held device and information will be directed to a database. Analysts may look at accident trends to make suggestions to improve road conditions.

Wright said work is currently being done on two 1995 Chevrolet Caprice police cars owned separately by DPS and the College Station Police Department.

The idea was first developed in 1992 by Marlin Crouse, a principal investigator with TTI, who headed the first phase of the project and developed most of the hardware for the first prototype, Wright said.

Morgan said the work in phase one was done to prove the feasibility of the concept and to show how police departments could use this technology. He said the phase also provided visibility for the project, and as a result, funding was increased.

Technocar 2000 is sponsored and funded by the Federal Highway and Work Administration and the Texas Department of Transportation, Morgan said.

The project currently has enough funds to last through 1997, he said.

Bryan citizens fight losing battle against egrets



Roger Hsieh, THE BATTALION

These egrets made their home on Groesbeck Street in Bryan. The humans who already live there object to the smell of their new neighbors and want them to leave.

□ The birds come to nest on Groesbeck Street each year, despite efforts made by the city to keep them away.

By Michael Simmons
THE BATTALION

A flock of migratory birds have nested in a residential area on Groesbeck Street in Bryan, posing an unwanted health risk to the surrounding community.

Joe Brown, spokesman for the city of Bryan, said the rookery, or nesting ground, is occupied by possibly thousands of egrets. In an effort to control the birds, the city of Bryan hired a contractor to bulldoze more than 19 acres of underbrush, he said.

"The city has spent \$110,000 to control the flock," Brown said. "The money comes from the city's demolition fund, which is normally used to demolish vacant buildings."

Brown said the city is limited on how it can attack the problem. "You can't kill the birds," Brown said. "So, all we can do is modify their habitat."

Several political questions have been raised concerning the money spent by the city, Brown said.

"It is unclear whose responsibility it is to handle the problem," Brown said. "The city stepped forward and went out on its own."

Brown said Bryan citizens preferred that the money be spent elsewhere.

"Several people felt they would have been better served on something involving more the community, like the demolition of crack houses," he said.

Bryan Mayor Lonnie Stabler said efforts to relocate the rookery could take up to five or six years.

"Efforts to move the birds have been complicated because the birds are protected by federal law," Stabler said.

Stabler said he believes there are fewer birds this year than previous years and that the problem has almost solved the problem.

"We are close to moving the birds out of the city," he said, "but they still pose a nuisance, and a possible health hazard to area residents."

Stabler said municipalities are concerned that they may abide by federal and state statutes without receiving funding to handle the birds.

"When a statute is introduced in the middle of the year, there is no money in the budget

"The smell from the birds is awful."

— Joe Bayer
Groesbeck Street resident

help the city," Stabler said.

Joe Bayer, 76, who has lived on Groesbeck Street for more than 25 years, said he feels helpless.

"We have to live here day and day-out, breathing this air," he said. "The smell from the birds is awful."

"It can't be healthy," Bayer said. "When the city came to put up a fence around the birds, workers all wore chemical suits



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