

# Wonder World Drive Extension project dedication scheduled for July 24

Mayor Susan Narvaiz will preside at the highly anticipated dedication and opening of the \$26.38 million Wonder World Drive Extension on Saturday, July 24, 2010, at 10 a.m. at the east end of the new parkway at Hunter Road. City, state, federal and county officials will participate in the celebration and the public is invited to attend.

"The dedication of this significant roadway brings to fruition 20 years of committed efforts by our citizens. City Council, staff and the Texas Department of Transportation," said Mayor Susan Narvaiz. "The extension provides a vital transportation artery linking Ranch Road 12 and the Hill Country to the I-35 corridor. This beautiful parkway will also reroute heavy truck and through traffic away from our historic neighborhoods and downtown."

San Marcos voters approved the Wonder World Drive Extension in the 1998

bond election. Through the efforts of Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, Congress allocated \$10 million in 2005 for right-of-way, studies, permits and engineering. The City of San Marcos financed the project construction with a pass-through agreement with the Texas Department of Transportation.

The day's festivities kick off at 7 a.m. with the Run2Purgatory, a 5K Fun Run and Walk that is open to the public and free of charge. All race participants will receive a free commemorative t-shirt and can register on July 24 at the starting line on the east end of the Wonder World Drive Extension at Hunter Road.

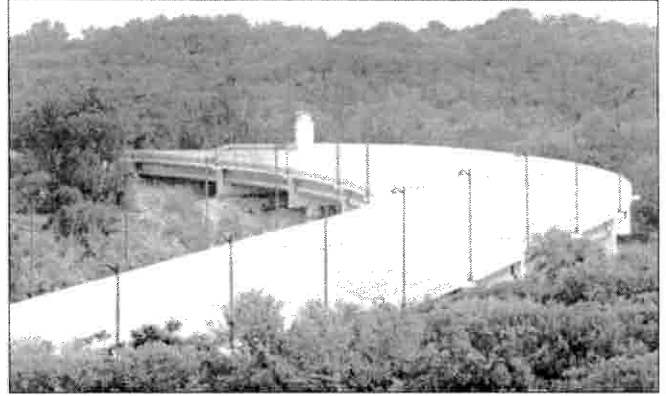
Ribbon cutting ceremonies commence at 10 a.m. and include autos from Dick's Classic Car Museum, introduction of dignitaries and dedication of the largest transportation project in the City's history.

Along with live music, attendees will enjoy a thrilling Remote Control Car Race, a barbecue lunch prepared by City of San Marcos Fire and Police personnel, as well as guided tours of the new parkway and the Purgatory Creek Preserve hike and bike trail. The limited access parkway is bordered by more than 500 acres of dedicated city parkland.

Parking for the day's events will be at the east end of the Wonder World Drive Extension at Hunter Road and police officers will be on hand to direct traffic. Handicap and VIP parking will be available. Overflow parking will be located at Hernandez Intermediate School, 333 Stagecoach Trail.

Following conclusion of the festivities, construction crews will remove barricades and prepare for the 6 p.m. opening of the roadway from Hunter Road to Ranch Road 12. The Craddock Avenue Extension will remain under construction with an anticipated fall completion date.

The 3.2 mile masterpiece project was designed by KBR of Austin and is being built by J.C. Evans Construction of



Don Anders/Photo

The Wonder World Drive extension meanders through beautiful Hill Country, much of it parkland, as the limited access parkway links Ranch Road 12 to Hunter Road and I-35.

Leander under the direction of Interim City Manager, Laurie Moyer, Director of Capital Improvements, David Healey and Assistant Director of Public Services, Sabas Avila.

The pass-through agreement provides that TxDOT will reimburse the City from \$3

to \$6 million a year for a ten to twenty year period, based upon traffic volume. Permanent traffic counters will record traffic volumes on the roadway between Hunter Road and Ranch Road 12 with the first payment to the City scheduled to occur 13 months

after the July 24 opening. For more information on this project or the ribbon cutting event, call the City of San Marcos Capital Improvements Department at 512.393.8130 or email cip@sanmarcostx.gov.

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## Goforth SUD to hold public meeting on water conservation

The Goforth Special Utility District is holding a public meeting to receive citizen input and ideas on Goforth's water conservation program and policy. The public meeting will be held at 7 p.m., July 21 at Goforth's office located at 8900 Niederwald Strasse in Niederwald.

The meeting is an opportunity for customers and other interested parties to help shape Goforth's water conservation program and policy. Goforth plans to adopt a new water con-

servation policy designed to prevent the waste of water, promote the efficient use of water by Goforth's customers, and to ensure a safe and adequate freshwater supply. Violations of the policy would be subject to enforcement, including a warning for a first violation and monetary penalties for any subsequent violations.

"Water conservation has several benefits for our customers," said Debbie Sandoval, Goforth SUD president. "Each customer's lower

water use translates into a lower water bill, but also benefits the entire Goforth system by reducing the need to incur the high infrastructure costs associated with building new water supply projects and purifying and pumping that water into our system."

Goforth's proposed water conservation policy can be reviewed and copied at Goforth's office from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information, please contact Mario Tobias, Goforth's

general manager, at (512) 376-5695.

Goforth Special Utility District is a retail water utility providing water service to approximately 11,800 customers in portions of Hays, Caldwell and Travis counties. Water for Goforth's customers comes from a combination of sources, including groundwater from the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer and surface water purchased from the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority.

## Budget

(Continued from Page 1)

two jailers. This budget season will be tougher because of the nation-wide recession. It's too early to tell, said County Judge Liz Sumter, but commissioners may have to face the possibility of increasing the tax rate by a half-cent to remain in the same financial position as last year. "It's a tough budget year. From our side, it's tough," said Pct. 2 Commissioner Jeff Barton. With an estimated \$14 mil-

lion budget, the sheriff's department is one of the county's most costly expenditures. The department's budget covers not only patrol deputies, but also funding for the jail, dispatchers and animal control services.

"When this court starts running, we are going to need more people," Ratliff said. "We're asking for 14 to 15 people for a building that's three times bigger than the facility we have today."

Commissioners questioned why the department needed three officers for a government building that will not be open until late next year.

"You realize we are trying

to chip away at this budget for things we don't need," said Pct. 4 Commissioner Karen Ford.

It is better to plan now, Ratliff said, since it could take the department from six months to almost a year to find new officers.

"We have to start in May or June to do that. That's going to put us in a bind," Ratliff said. "We have to have the time to put them through a program to see if they are going to make it (on the job)."

Ratliff also requested three more transportation officers and salary adjustments for those officers. Transportation officers are certified law enforcement personnel, but they do not earn the same salaries as court officers. He also requested a crime analyst, mechanics for the vehicles, another instructor for the training division and an assistant for the instructor.

iff's department.

The cost of housing Hays County inmates in Guadalupe County when the local jail becomes full is probably not going to go away. Hays County pays \$50 per day for inmates housed in jails outside the county.

"I don't anticipate that going down. We still have 20 miles in Guadalupe County," Ratliff said. "It seems every month we are having to house in another county. Our jail stands pretty full."

Officers on average make 20 to 30 arrests each day, Robinson said. It costs \$35 to \$40 per day to house inmates in the county jail.

**Fingerprinting revenue**  
There is one stream of revenue the sheriff's department can tap into: fingerprinting equipment. The state requires teachers, school staff members, security guards and Realtors to submit to fingerprinting.

Currently, they have to go to neighboring counties to get the job done because Hays County does not have the ability to do it locally.

That could change, Ratliff said, if the county purchased equipment to fingerprint civilians for workforce pur-

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