



Sky's the limit for Hutto

Hutto named fastest growing city in Texas for second year

KATHRYN EAKENS

Leader Staff

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Once a small farming community of 600, today Hutto has an estimated population of 17,200 and is expected to increase to 30,000 residents within the next few years. Based on statistical data from July 2000 to January 2008 the Texas State Data Center recently named Hutto the fastest growing city in the state.

This is the second year in a row Hutto has received the distinction - the first time being in 2007 by the U.S. Census Bureau.

With over five years of explosive growth, residential building has dominated the city's development but now Hutto also has several commercial projects on the horizon expected to not only enhance the quality of life for its residents but boost revenue to assist in financing municipal projects.

The most ambitious of those projects is the Crossings of Carmel Creek, a 468-acre mixed-use development at the intersection of state Highway 130 and Highway 79. Plans for The Crossings include a community shopping area as well as shop-lined streets with residential and office space located above the retail - an estimated 6 million square-feet of commercial build-out over a 20-year period. The development will also add 2,100 units of multi-family housing as well as additional row houses to Hutto's landscape, which is now primarily comprised of single-family homes.

Hutto has also had a rash of new national retailers open near the hot spot, including Home Depot, Lowe's, Chili's and Walgreens, and was recently named one of the top 100 places in major markets to locate a company.

"Hutto as a whole is a hot spot, but perhaps the hottest spot in Hutto is the intersection of state Highway 130 and Highway 79," Scott Martinez, president of the Hutto Economic Development Corporation, said at the Williamson County Growth Summit on Nov. 3. "The reason it is a hot spot is simply the opening of state Highway 130. Toll roads have been discussed and cussed over the last several years in Central Texas but from my perspective it has opened a world of opportunity in our community."

Hutto has also been planning infrastructure to support both commercial development - through its partnership with Williamson County on Limmer Loop, the FM 1660 realignment, the Highway 79 improvement project and the Carl Stern Boulevard extension - and its growing population.

This year the city reached significant milestones toward completion of the Brushy Creek South Wastewater Treatment Plant, which will ensure sufficient wastewater treatment capacity for the community and is on schedule for completion in summer 2011, and negotiated a long-term water supply contract with Heart of Texas Suppliers, L.P. in an effort to ensure quality water for its residents.

Another critical piece of infrastructure completed is the 1 million gallon water tower and 1 million gallon ground storage tank with a booster pump station that will provide the necessary pressure to adequately serve existing commercial developments north of U.S. Highway 79 as well as improve the city's ability to provide future water service to the area along state Highway 130 including the upcoming development, the Crossings of Carmel Creek. The facility when acquired was adequately sized to include future expansion.

"The benefits from the on-going development of this infrastructure not only addresses the quality of life for Hutto but will meet the growing needs of the fastest growing city in the state of Texas and go a long way in improving the economic viability of our community," said Mayor Pro-Tem David Begier.