Pocket Farms of Hays County, Texas: Sustainable Agriculture in Rural-Urban Fringe Environments

by
Pamela S. Showalter

And
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The James and Marilyn Lovell Center
for Environmental Geography and Hazards Research,
Department of Geography
Texas State University – San Marcos

Occasional Paper No. 3
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"From the Moon, our Earth is a grand oasis that requires constant protection from environmental problems" -- James and Marilyn Lovell
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PREFACE
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As one of the first three human beings to travel around the moon on Apollo 8, Captain James Lovell with fellow astronauts Borman and Anders, looked back towards Earth and took a photograph that, for the first time, showed all of humanity how fragile our planet appears when seen against the blackness of space. Years later, aboard Apollo 13 with astronauts Swigert and Haise, Captain Lovell again captured the world’s attention as he and his crewmates worked doggedly to bring their crippled spacecraft safely back to Earth. Enduring the agonizing wait on the ground, Marilyn Lovell maintained her belief that somehow her husband and the hundreds of NASA personnel working on the problem would find a way to bring Apollo safely home. The James and Marilyn Lovell Center for Environmental Geography and Hazards Research (JMLC) pays homage to the principle that many minds working together can find imaginative solutions to the challenges facing our fragile planet.

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JMLC Faculty Scholars and Their Research Interests

Fellow
Pamela S. Showalter, Ph.D. University of Colorado-Boulder, 1993; Director.
Hazards, digital image analysis, coastal development, land use/land change in respect to hazards, CAFOs.

Distinguished Scholars
R. Denise Blanchard, Ph.D. University of Colorado-Boulder, 1992; Past-Director.
Natural and environmental hazards, environmental studies, mitigation and preparedness behavior, recovery planning and policy as it relates to future disasters, environmental hazards in Texas and the borderlands.

David R. Butler, Ph.D. University of Kansas, 1982; Past-Director.
Geomorphic hazards, mountain environments, zoogeomorphology, landslides, snow avalanches as hazards, geomorphic hazards as a result of twentieth-century global warming, hazards produced by natural dam failures (e.g., landslide, avalanche, glacial, volcanic, and beaver).

Senior Scholars
Richard W. Dixon, Ph.D. Texas A&M University, 1996; Past-Director.
Climatology, oceanography, weather and climate related hazards, coastal issues.

Environmental geography, hazards.

Susan Macey, Ph.D. University of Illinois-Urbana, 1982.
Natural/technological hazards; environmental health issues; human impact of natural and technological hazards, energy, health and equity issues, and the use of GIS for environmental applications.

Scholars
Nate Currit, Ph.D. Pennsylvania State University, 2003.
Land-use and land cover change, remote sensing.

Frederick Day, Ph.D. Ohio State University, 1982.
Social and economic impact of population change, human population movements, depopulation, diffusion processes.

René De Hon, Ph.D. Texas Tech University, 1970.
Planetary geology/geomorphology, terrestrial analogs of planetary features.

Water resources, floods; flood hazards, geomorphology, field methods, hydroclimatology, and Texas water resources.
Mark Fonstad, Ph.D. Arizona State University, 2000.  
Water resources, remote sensing, GIS, theoretical river analysis, applied flood hydrology, geomorphic hazards, remote sensing, and geospatial modeling.

Sven Fuhrmann, Ph.D. Westfälische Wilhelms-University, Muenster, Germany, 2002.  
GIScience, 3-D visualization and interaction.

Alberto Giordano, Ph.D. Syracuse University-New York, 1999.  
GIScience policy applications, multimedia/web, cartography, historical GIS, GPS, and policy applications of GIScience.

Don Huebner, Ph.D. University of Texas at Austin, 2002.  
Medical geography (Vibrio vulnificus), coastal hazards, landscape ecology, GIS, cartography, biogeography, environmental hazards and history, conservation, geomorphology, remote sensing, wildlife management, medical geography, paleo-ecology, geographic education, American mountain west, cultural landscapes

Yongmei Lu, Ph.D. University at Buffalo the State University of New York, 2001.  
GIS, urban and regional analysis, environment and health; geographic information science, urban and regional analysis, geography of China and East Asia

Osvaldo Muniz-Solari, Ph.D. University of Tennessee, 1991.  
Latin America; corporate environmental impact; online learning methods, new technologies for global collaboration, dams and environmental impact, transportation, scientific networking, TNCs and labor migration.

Urbanization, commodification of natural resources; community and citizenship issues, sense of place, educational technology

Philip Suckling, Ph.D. University of British Columbia-Vancouver, 1977.  
Climatology; natural hazards

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GIScience, health and the environment, transportation network science

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Acknowledgements

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The opinions, findings, conclusions, and/or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the authors and should not be interpreted as reflecting the views of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Texas State University-San Marcos, the Department of Geography, or the James and Marilyn Lovell Center for Environmental Geography and Hazards Research.
Dedication

This paper is dedicated to our friend and colleague, Dr. Sue Johnson.

Sue was the original Principal Director on this grant, but she passed away unexpectedly before the work reached completion. Because her intellect, scholarly input, enthusiasm, and breadth of knowledge regarding sustainability and small farms was limitless, her loss was a horrific blow not only on a personal level but in terms of the research effort.

Sue, we struggled without you.
# Table of Contents

Acknowledgements .................................................................................................................. i
Dedication ............................................................................................................................. ii
Overview ................................................................................................................................. vi

## Section One—Hays County, Texas: Geographic and Demographic Setting

A Summary of Hays County’s Physical Geography...............................................................1
The County’s “Site and Situation” and Demographic Trends ..............................................5

## Section Two—A Summary of U.S. Agriculture as it Applies to this Research

Background ..........................................................................................................................11
The Notion of “Sustainable Agriculture” and how it is used in this Study .......................13
Examining the Landscape .................................................................................................15

## Section Three—Sustainable Agriculture in Hays County: the "Pocket Farm"

The Pocket Farm ..................................................................................................................23
Social Capital ......................................................................................................................27
Sustainable Agriculture and Social Capital As a Factor in Conflict Resolution ...............28

## Section Four—Discussion ...............................................................................................32

## Section Five—Conclusion and Recommendations ...........................................................34

References ............................................................................................................................36
Figures

Figure 1. Hays County, Texas .................................................................1
Figure 2. Hays County elevation data ......................................................2
Figure 3. Generalized Hays County Soil Map ........................................3
Figure 4. Locations of good agricultural potential ...............................5
Figure 5. Areas of good crop potential in association with
floodplains/floodways ........................................................................6
Figure 6. Proximity of Hays County to Travis and Bexar Counties ..........7
Figure 7. Hays County’s population growth from 1900-2000 ...............8
Figure 8a. 1995 Hays County Subdivisions ........................................10
Figure 8b. 2004 Hays County Subdivisions ..........................................10
Figure 9. Land parcels in Hays County measuring between 5-5839 acres .15
Figure 10. Parcels measuring over 5 acres in size overlaid by subdivision
boundaries ..........................................................................................16
Figure 11. Parcels measuring between 5-100 acres outside subdivision
boundaries ..........................................................................................17
Figure 12. 5-100 acre parcels overlaid by industry, floodplains, and
subdivisions ......................................................................................18
Figure 13. Juxtaposition of areas with good agricultural potential to 5-100
acre parcels, industry and subdivisions ...........................................19
Figure 14a. Service area/Farmers Markets ...........................................20
Figure 14b. Service area/Grocers ..........................................................21
Figure 14c. Service area/Health food stores ..........................................22
Figure 15. Location of sustainable agriculturalists in Hays County ........24
Tables

Table 1. Hays County Population Census 1900-2000 ........................................................8

Appendices

Appendix A: Regional Listing of Sustainable Farmers .....................................................42
Appendix B: Undergraduate Notes and Maps ...............................................................49
Appendix C: Pocket Farm Blog .....................................................................................79
Appendix D: Newspaper Analysis ...............................................................................86
  Wimberley View ........................................................................................................87
  Kyle Eagle ................................................................................................................105
  Dripping Springs News Dispatch .............................................................................114
Appendix E: Farmer Interview Notes .........................................................................127
Appendix F: Farmers Market Notes, Pictures .............................................................132
  San Marcos Farmers Market ...................................................................................133
  Wimberley Farmers Market ...................................................................................135
  Dripping Springs Farmers Market ..........................................................................137
Overview

The material in this report presents the results of a research effort concerned with the following question: To what extent can “sustainable agriculture” ameliorate land use conflicts in a rapidly urbanizing but still largely rural area?

The research was conducted in Hays County, Texas, between 2003-2007, and relied upon a variety of data sources, including (but not limited to): relevant literature, field surveys, content analysis of local newspapers, interviews, digital maps, and digital photographs. In the interest of clarity, the report is organized as follows:

Section One—the geographic and demographic setting of Hays County.

Section Two—a general discussion of agriculture in the United States as context for the agricultural forms that have more recently appeared on the landscape, including an examination of how agricultural activities have traditionally been defined and discussed in the literature and/or by relevant agencies (e.g., the U.S. Department of Agriculture).

Section Three—a thorough description of “Pocket Farms,” why such farms are not adequately defined using conventional terms, and how adding the term to the literature would improve understanding of their contribution to the Texas, and the country’s, agricultural production.

Section Four—a discussion of our findings, comparing expectations with realities and the emergence of new concepts as part of our findings.

Section Five—conclusions and recommendations for future research.
Section One
Hays County, Texas–Geographic and Demographic Setting

A Summary of Hays County’s Physical Geography

This study examined land use, suburban sprawl, and farming practices in Hays County, a rapidly growing region of Central Texas. Lying on the border between the Edwards Plateau and southern Black Prairie regions, the Balcones Escarpment divides the County into an area of hills to the west and plains to the east (Cecil and Greene 2008). A variety of plant and animal life, some of which has been placed on the federal endangered species list (HCHCP 2007), are found in this county situated over the Trinity and Edwards aquifers (Figure 1; unless otherwise stated, all maps in this report were produced using ESRI®’s ArcView®3.3 or ArcMap™ 9.1). Annual rainfall averages 33.75 inches; the average minimum winter temperature is 40º F and the average maximum summer temperature 96º (Cecil and Greene 2008). The Blanco River travels across the county from west to east, turning into the San Marcos River as it proceeds toward the Gulf of Mexico. The County Seat is located in the City of San Marcos, whose 2007 population was estimated as 49,083 (CSM 2007).

Figure 2 displays relative elevations across the county. Because of the orientation of the county’s borders, throughout this paper the eastern side of the county will be considered...
to be that portion next to Caldwell County, the northern side will be that portion next to Travis County, the western side will be that portion found next to Blanco County, and the southern border will be that area next to Comal County. The eastern side of Hays County (red and yellow on Figure 2) is characterized by low-lying, flat terrain while to the west (blues in Figure 2) a more highly dissected terrain is evident, also illustrating where the county becomes part of the Texas “Hill Country”.

It is instructive at this point to examine a soil map of the county (Figure 3). For the purpose of this paper, the many soil types have been aggregated into four: Comfort-Rock Outcrop Complex, Undulating (CrD)-type, Rumple-Comfort Association, Undulating (RUD)-type, Houston Black Clay (HoB)-type, and Doss Silty Clay (DoC)-type. Examining Figure 3, it can be seen that the western portion of the county is dominated by CrD-type soils, there is an area between the western and eastern portions predominantly composed of RUD-type soils, and the eastern side is characterized by a mix of HoB- and RUD-type soils. (DoC-type soils represent such a small portion of the county that they will not be discussed further, here.)

Information regarding the CrD, RUD, and HoB soils was derived from two sources. The first is a publication describing soils on the Freeman Ranch in Hays County. The ranch is
Figure 3. Generalized Hays County soil map.

located in the mid-elevation region between San Marcos and Wimberley off Ranch Road 12 and,

lies within the Edwards Plateau physiographic region. The topography in this area is undulating to hilly with some sections that are deeply dissected. Most is rapidly drained to less sloping stream valleys and some stony plains that are broad and relatively flat. Soils of this region are mostly stony. Some series are somewhat deeper and less stony on flat divides and in stream valleys. The underlying material of the Edwards Plateau soils is erosion-resistant limestone and limestone interbedded with clay and marl. (Godfrey et al.1976 in Carson 2000, p. 1)

Carson’s description of Freeman Ranch is evocative of much of the terrain in the Hill Country. Turning to the details of two of the soil units found in Figure 3: CrD and RUD, the CrD soil unit is considered to be,

complex because there are two or more kinds of soil in . . . intricate pattern[s] or . . . small in area . . . The topographic sequence of [CrD] . . . includes: Comfort extremely stony clay which makes up most of the complex (usually in excess of 70 percent); Rock outcrops and areas of soil less than 4 inches in depth; . . . Up to 50 percent of the surface of . . . CrD is covered with cobbles and stones that
may reach 4 feet across. The surface layer or topsoil is typically dark brown extremely stony clay about 6 inches thick. The . . . subsoil of the Comfort is 6-13 inches deep and a dark reddish brown extremely stony clay. The underlying material . . . is about 13-20 inches of mostly indurated dolomitic limestone that has dark reddish brown soil material in the narrow fractures. This soil is well drained but slowly permeable to air and water. The moisture storage capacity is limited by the lack of soil depth and content of stones. The Rock outcrop part of this complex (average of 15 percent) is typically dolomitic limestone, which is barren of soil except for some narrow fractures. Sometimes there may be as much as 3 inches of soil on the surface of flat rocks. The small inclusions of other soil series usually make up less than about 15 percent of the rest of the complex. (Carson 2000, pp. 2-3)

Typically, CrD soils are used for rangeland and wildlife habitat (USDA/SCS 1981) and are not particularly well-suited to agriculture due to their shallowness and coarse to clay nature.

Of the RUD-type soil, Carson writes:

The Rump le [sic] soil (RUD) may have the surface covered with as much as 20 percent by volume of rounded chert, limestone fragments and gravels. The surface soil layer is a dark reddish brown, very cherty loam, clay loam, or clay that is bout [sic] 10 inches thick. The . . . subsoil is a dark reddish brown very cherty clay to extremely cherty clay that may have up to 75 percent by volume of limestone fragments present in the lower part of the subsoil. The subsoil is 10-28 inches deep. The . . . underlying material is coarsely fractured indurated limestone that has dark reddish brown soil in the crevices. . . . Rumple is a moderately deep, well drained but slowly permeable soil. (Carson 2000, p. 3)

Similar to the CrD soils, RUD soils are used for rangeland and wildlife habitat and are considered largely unsuitable for cultivated crops or as pastureland (USDA/SCS 1981).

The last soil type to be discussed is the HoB, as described by the USDA’s 1981 Soil Survey of Comal and Hays Counties. HoB soil characteristically ranges from a dark gray to grayish-brown clay, and is considered moderately well drained. When it is dry, water enters this soil quickly through cracks; when moist, the water enters slowly. Although the rooting zone is deep, root penetration is restricted by the clay. While the above soil presents challenges for the agriculturalist, it is still considered suitable for cultivated crops and pastureland (USDA/SCS 1981).

Revisiting Figure 3, it can be expected that soil characteristics will be a limiting factor for agricultural activities to the west of Hays County, as opposed to the eastern side. It can be expected that agriculture occurring on the west will be highly dispersed and occurring on smaller acreages. Examining a map illustrating areas with good agricultural potential (as determined from data obtained from the Hays County Sustainable Agriculture Project staff [Figure 4]) supports these expectations.
To complete this portion of the section, Figure 5 displays water (as represented by floodplains and floodway data available from the Federal Emergency Management Agency) in association with the areas of good agricultural potential. Not surprisingly, much of the area characterized as having “good crop potential” lies inside, or in proximity to, waterways that can serve as a source of water and can lay down nutrients and soil as the rainwater and/or spring-flow travels to the Gulf.

**The County’s “Site and Situation” and Demographic Trends**

Hays County is located about halfway between the large metropolitan areas of Austin in Travis County and San Antonio in Bexar County (Figure 6). These cities are connected by Interstate 35, which runs along the eastern side of Hays County essentially separating the flatland from the Hill Country. The USDA’s Urban Influence and Rural-Urban Continuum Codes (USDA/ERS 2003), a coding system that classifies all U.S. counties into three metropolitan and six nonmetropolitan types, distinguishing nonmetropolitan counties by their degree of urbanization and proximity to metropolitan areas (a completely rural county would be ranked a “0”) ranks Hays County as a “1” (a county in a metropolitan area with one million in population or more). The rank of “1” is somewhat misleading, though, because while the regional population surpasses one million due to its proximity to Austin, approximately 72% of the county is considered "rural open land", is largely unincorporated, and consists of open areas with high scenic

![Legend](image)

**Legend**
- Counties
- Roads
- Cities
- Crop Potential

Figure 4. Locations of good agricultural potential.
value and varied farming and ranching activities. Because of these factors, the USDA’s Natural Amenities Scale, which uses physical characteristics to rank a place’s attractiveness as somewhere to live, places Hays County solidly in the top 45th percentile in the country with a rank of “4” (USDA/ERS 1999); 1 is low, 7 is high—only 13% of U.S. counties rank 5 or higher.

Table 1 and Figure 7 display population growth in Hays County over the last century as calculated by the U.S. census. From 1900-1960 Hays County’s population ebbed and flowed in small increments. In 1970, however, there was a spurt of nearly 39% followed by subsequent jumps of about 47% in 1980, 61% in 1990, and 49% in 2000 (County Information Project No Date). More recently (as of January 1, 2007), the County’s population was estimated at 137,940—a 41.3 percent increase from the 2000 census (TSDC/OSD 2007). Increasing numbers of people are settling in Hays County, attracted by its rural character, proximity to Austin and San Antonio, and other features such as those afforded by an institution of higher education (San Marcos is home to Texas State University-San Marcos). In short, the region is being subjected to the same forces of decentralization (or suburbanization) that have emerged around metropolitan areas throughout the United States.
The fact that the western part of Hays County is part of the Texas Hill Country is important to note, because the nomenclature is more than a simple description of topography. The Hill Country serves as a population “pull” factor, a factor that is increasingly evident in the popular press, from the *New York Times* (Atkinson 2007; Greenfield 2007) to *The Dallas Morning News*, which recently featured an article that encouraged retirees to move to the Hill Country:

The natural beauty and relative affordability of the area west of Austin and San Antonio have put towns such as Fredericksburg, Kerrville and Marble Falls on national lists of popular retirement places. “The secret's out,” said Frederick Day, a demographer at Texas State University-San Marcos. "If you're approaching retirement, head for the hills. . . .” With the oldest boomers now eligible for Social Security, many are moving to smaller communities on the outskirts of metropolitan areas. "The Hill Country fills the bill, with its lakes, rivers and rolling hills, for city-weary retirees, but also its proximity to Austin and San Antonio for those who want to hop in the car for an evening or weekend on the town," Dr. Day said. (Moos 2008)

Suburbanization, whether in Hays County or elsewhere, has long been recognized as one of the major causes of loss of agricultural land. But in Hays County, increasing numbers of residents are also living in an area characterized by short periods of excessive rainfall
Table 1. Hays County Population Census 1900-2000 (County Information Project No Date).

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<td>0.029</td>
<td>0.162</td>
<td>0.117</td>
<td>0.387</td>
<td>0.469</td>
<td>0.616</td>
<td>0.487</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Figure 7. Hays County’s population growth from 1900-2000.

followed by longer periods of drought. The Trinity and Edwards aquifers cannot recharge rapidly enough to ensure a constant water supply for the region. The result is a strain on less-than-abundant water resources, which must then be supplemented. For example, up to the last decade the entire county was dependent on aquifer water—now San Marcos pipes in surface water to meet its needs. Additional evidence of the critical nature of the water problem is found in recent actions by Kyle and Dripping Springs, two rapidly-growing communities near major roads in the County. In the last few years, both communities have contracted for the provision of surface water due to problems with water availability (e.g., wells running dry). And, one (Kyle) was fined by the local groundwater conservation district for over-building housing units and extracting too much water from groundwater sources. Not only is water quantity a problem, but water quality as well. As Kimmel (2006) notes, “the State of Texas and the city of San Marcos have regulations aimed at preventing pollution of the aquifer, but the risks increase as the Hill Country west of San Marcos continues to be developed for residential use” (p. 13).
Figures 8a and 8b provide some hint of the direction of suburban encroachment in Hays County. What the maps do not show, however, is the recent growth of many large lot subdivisions, which some researchers suggest are more of a threat to agriculture than suburbs because of the amount of land they consume. As Helmlich and Anderson (2001) have noted, large lot subdivisions add to rural fragmentation and consume larger amounts of water than their small-lot counterparts. Arguably, many of these large lot subdivisions may preserve the rural "feel" of the area, but it is unlikely that they will be encouraging the production of sustainable agriculture by those who purchase such lots.

Large-lot developments in rural areas near larger cities attract people for a number of reasons, including the fact that rural real estate is usually cheaper than urban real estate. Because Hays County is sandwiched between two very large metropolitan areas, it is under development pressures from both the north and south. Therefore, it is likely that the county is subject to the same forces described by Brown et al. (1997) regarding motivations behind residential choices in rural-urban fringe areas. That study suggested that city dwellers want to live where there is a nearby rural setting outside the city and rural dwellers want to live close (but, not too close!) to a city.

Ultimately, development patterns in Hays County are a reflection of development pressures commonly noted in the rural-urban fringe. While there are population concentrations in the form of incorporated communities within the county, it still contains areas of undeveloped land that could be used agriculturally. Consequently, as with similarly situated rural areas experiencing rapid development, whose agricultural landscape is changing, Hays County is a place, where land values, taxes, fragmentation and the limited availability of land for expansion combine to make 'traditional' mid-size family farming difficult—but allow for or reward intensification of production on small parcels, among other adaptive strategies. (Lawrence 1989, p. 64)
Figure 8a. 1995 Hays County Subdivisions.

Figure 8b. 2004 Hays County Subdivisions.
Section Two
A Summary of U.S. Agriculture as it Applies to this Research

Background

The concept of "rurality" has traditionally implied the existence of "... a dispersed population supported by an agricultural land base and related endeavors" (Berry et al. 2000, p. 101). Additionally, the concept has implied the notion of family farms dotting the landscape and serving as a critical element in the nation’s food production system. However, in the 1980s, the romantic notion of the family farm as the locus of food production in this country began to erode for a variety of reasons, many of which are summarized by Ingram (2007). For example, hundreds of thousands of small farming operations went bankrupt in the larger national economic downturn. A host of environmental problems came into play to undermine the profitability of many operations, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s identification of agriculture as the largest source of nonpoint water pollution. Simultaneously, the use of chemical pesticides, fertilizers, herbicides, and other additives to the food chain came under suspicion in terms of their impact on human health. In the midst of all the above, a trend toward agricultural concentration in the form of industrial grade operations (e.g., concentrated animal feeding operations) resulted in major land use and demographic changes throughout rural areas.

Despite the magnitude of the changes that were taking place, opportunities for more individualized farming activities were not totally obliterated. The historically robust mobility of the American population, coupled with entrepreneurial spirit and access to information, fueled the quest to redefine farming on the American landscape. Consequently, alternative ideas about food and farming began entering the "mainstream" (Ingram, 2007) so that, today, it is reasonable to assert that U.S. agriculture, ... exhibits tremendous regional diversity in scale, operation, and major crops produced. Even within particular regions, significant differences in scale and operation exist, such that there is no 'typical' form or model of the American farm (Dixon and Hapke 2003, p. 144).

Farmers and other primary producers have continued to seek out novel ways to generate income, so much so that this search for novelty has led to alternative uses of rural space (Ilbery 1998). Given the diversity and varying levels of success that the myriad of operations have evidenced, some definitional grounding is in order. The USDA has a broad typology that defines eight classes of U.S. farms, not including those operated by a hired manager. These economically-based classes are as follows:

Small Family Farms (sales less than $250,000)

Limited-resource farms. Small farms with sales less than $100,000 in 2003 and low operator household income in 2003 and 2004. Household income is low if it is less than the poverty level in both 2003 and 2004 or if it is less than half the county median income both years.

Retirement farms. Small farms whose operators report they are retired
(excludes limited-resource farms operated by retired farmers).

*Residential/lifestyle farms.* Small farms whose operators report they had a major occupation other than farming (excludes limited-resource farms with operators reporting a nonfarm major occupation).

*Farming occupation/low-sales.* Small farms with sales less than $100,000 whose operators report farming as their major occupation (excludes limited-resource farms whose operators report farming as their major occupation).

*Farming occupation/high-sales.* Small farms with sales between $100,000 and $249,999 whose operators report farming as their major occupation.

**Other Family Farms**

*Large family farms.* Farms with sales between $250,000 and $499,999.

*Very large family farms.* Farms with sales of $500,000 or more (USDA/ERS 2005a).

In addition to the above, the USDA recognizes “emergent adaptive” farms—operations that were very small between 1978-82 but that have since grown to more than $100,000 in the sale of high-value crops (USDA/ERS 2005b).

Apparently, *emergent adaptive* farms in metropolitan areas are becoming an increasingly important factor in U.S. agriculture (Brunet 2005). These farms are described as smaller, producing more per acre, engaging in more diverse enterprises, and as focusing more on high value production than non-metro farms (Hoppe and Korb, 2000 in Brunet, 2005). Such farms are considered better able to survive the pressures of a near-urban environment. Indeed, "when compared to traditional and recreational farms, they generally 'control more than proportional shares of metro farm sales, assets, and net cash farm income' (Heimlich and Anderson, 2001)" (Brunet 2005, p. 5).

Emergent adaptive farms are flexible enough to adjust to development pressures. These types of farms can also help address some of the historical antagonism felt between farmers/ranchers and new rural residents. Such farms demonstrate how development can actually be profitable for those farmers/entrepreneurs willing to provide an amenity desired by new residents and take advantage of the opportunities provided by the new situation. A positive byproduct of such farms is that they conserve land for agriculture and preserve farming as a part of the rural economy—an activity often seen as a bulwark against the worst effects of development (e.g., increased sedimentation and reduced water quality and/or availability) (Heimlich and Anderson 2001).

Local farms and their products have significant, positive effects on their rural and/or metropolitan neighbors. Income earned by farmers on their local produce is generally spent by them in the local area. Consequently, transportation costs and the production of pollutants associated with transportation are reduced. Farms can provide entry-level jobs, while increasing the need for farm-related services (e.g., the sale of feed/seed, hardware, machinery), leading to increased employment in businesses that service farmers. Farmland also serves as a form of open space that enhances agritourism (Gale 1997), a
term used to describe farms functioning as educational and recreational travel destinations (e.g., offering tours, pick-your-own opportunities, hunting, fishing, and hiking, wine tasting, festivals, and even corn mazes) (Crowley 2007). Through “value-added” activities, agritourism has the “... potential to increase net revenues for relatively small, higher-cost producers in advanced industrialized countries beyond those possible from wholesale operations of similar scale (Johnson 2003)” (Veeck et al. 2006, p. 235). In addition to the above, local farms are often a source of organic products, whose market has increased 20 percent per year since 1990 (Brooks and Lynch 2004; Ingram 2007). While more expensive than produce purchased at large supermarkets, many more families are choosing to buy locally grown organic foods because of the perception that they are fresher (Veeck et al. 2006) and less likely to be contaminated with foreign agents (e.g., salmonella).

The Notion of “Sustainable Agriculture” and How it is Used in this Study

It is instructive at this point to recall that the recent emergence of the "sustainable agriculture paradigm" has been prompted by the failing or detrimental ecological impact of certain "modern", high input, agricultural enterprises.

The research performed here is founded on a definition of sustainable agriculture that has its roots in the larger sustainability movement that began several decades ago. The term, sustainability, along with the variant, sustainable, has been applied in countless contexts, to the point that phrases such as sustainable development, sustainable community, sustainable market, and the like, have become commonplace. As Thayer (1994) noted in reference to the notion of sustainability, the idea has achieved,

rapid, popular ascension . . . [because it] implies a limitation of the degree and rate of human impact such that the natural carrying capacity of the earth's ecosystems can be perpetually maintained (p. 99; author's italics),

and, that ultimately, sustainable landscapes are

... a place where human communities, resource uses, and the carrying capacities of surrounding ecosystems can all be perpetually maintained. (p. 100; author's italics)

Bowler (1992) identified degrees of sustainable agriculture based upon the application of a checklist of ecological principles to the farm business. Along a continuum, he defines three types–diversified, low input-output, and organic farming (Pierce 1994, p. 186). Crosson (1992) suggested that a sustainable food system is "one that can indefinitely meet demands for food and fiber at socially acceptable economic and environmental costs" (p. 2). An important augmentation offers that a "more comprehensive view of sustainability [combines] the notion of stewardship with adequate economic/social rewards and sufficient food supply" (Pierce 1994, 186).
The above concept is consistent with the definition of sustainable agriculture found in the 1990 Farm Bill; an integrated system of plant and animal production practices having a site-specific application that will, over the long term:

- satisfy human food and fiber needs,
- enhance environmental quality and the natural resource base upon which the agricultural economy depends,
- make the most efficient use of nonrenewable resources and on-farm resources and integrate, where appropriate, natural biological cycles and controls,
- sustain the economic viability of farm operations, and
- enhance the quality of life for farmers and society as a whole (FACTA 1990).

Another definition of sustainable agriculture was suggested by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). According to that definition, sustainable agriculture, "... involves the successful management of resources for agriculture to satisfy changing human needs, while maintaining or enhancing the quality of the environment and conserving natural resources" (TAC/CGIR 1988 in Dumanski et al. 2002, p. 340). This definition requires the integration of physical and biological dimensions that determine the productivity and resilience of the resource base, with the economic and social dimensions that control the long-term economic stability and viability of farms and the rural communities in which they operate. To best achieve these objectives, a sustainable agricultural system must always be in a position to respond to and capture opportunities provided by changing markets, technologies, and global environmental conditions. This rationale underpins "sustainability as opportunity," a concept that also emerged from the CGIAR/TAC and requires that we leave future generations as many, if not more, opportunities as we have enjoyed.

As simple and comprehensible as these and similar conceptual definitions are, they are not easy to use in practice, and have inspired lengthy debates on the measurement of sustainability and how it might be incorporated into farmer's objectives, national goals, and the many levels of land use policy. The debates have often been inconclusive and have contributed to skepticism, especially in developing countries where food production targets are dictated by day-to-day needs and reign supreme among national priorities (El-Swaify and Yakowitz 1998).

Our own definition of sustainable agriculture (both plant cultivation and animal husbandry) had a dynamic quality at the outset, in the sense that agriculture, by its very nature, is a process. The manner in which agriculture is carried out can vary dramatically from location to location. Given the process-based nature of agriculture, along with the wide variation that is found from one locale to another, we initially adopted Madden and Chaplowe’s (1997) definition which is the “... raising of food crops and livestock using systems that maintain and enhance the health of the soil and the environment" (p. 3).

Over time, however, we modified our conceptual base to emphasize the notion of scale as it relates to an agricultural enterprise, along with philosophical elements that might be
present in, or attendant to, the enterprise. The conceptual change was largely driven by
the results of the inventory that was conducted as one of the first activities in the research
program. The following figures are visual representatives of that inventory, and serve as
the basis for the discussion that follows.

Examining the Landscape

Early in the course of the research, a decision had to be reached regarding the size of land
parcels in Hays County that may serve, or have the potential to serve, as locations of
sustainable agriculture. For the purposes of this study, five acres is believed to represent
the smallest amount of land an individual can farm in Hays County and produce enough
saleable material to at least cover or largely offset the costs of farming. One hundred
acres was chosen as the upper limit because farms larger than that are rarely engaged in
agricultural practices that could be considered sustainable. To examine the land parcels
in Hays County, they were initially sorted and mapped (Figure 9), with the sizes broken
down into the following range of acreages: 5-20, 21-100, 101-500, 501-2000, and 2001-
5839 (the largest parcel in the county).

Lots found within subdivision boundaries have less potential for serving as locations for
sustainable agriculture due to the possibility of deed restrictions. In order to determine
whether many of the land parcels are within platted subdivisions, Figure 10 was created

Figure 9. Land parcels in Hays County measuring between 5-5839 acres.
by overlaying the 2004 subdivision boundaries (Figure 8b) with land parcels measuring over 5 acres. The result is not unexpected—that many of the lots are found within existing subdivisions. To gain a better impression of how many “sustainable agriculture-sized” lots existed outside subdivisions, only those lots measuring between 5-100 acres outside subdivision boundaries were mapped (Figure 11). As can be seen from this Figure, the limited amount of land (as determined by parcel size), available for sustainable agriculture to occur is, with a few exceptions, scattered across the county with one “open” region appearing as available in the west-central part of the map.

Figure 12 examines these parcels further by determining how many are unsuitable for agricultural activity by virtue of containing gravel pits, industrial sites, or being in riverbeds. As can be seen in the illustration, the majority of industrial sites and gravel pits are located next to, or in close proximity to Interstate 35. Water, as was noted earlier, dissects the landscape.

To get a sense of how many parcels overlie areas of good agricultural potential (from Figure 4), Figure 13 was created. That map contains the same elements as found in Figure 12, with the exception of the floodplains and floodways (to reduce “map clutter”). What is striking about this figure is that much of the “best” agricultural land in Hays County is being built over by the cities of San Marcos, Kyle, and Buda as they grow, and as businesses expand in proximity to I-35.
Undergraduate students (see Acknowledgements) participating in an upper division GIS class were given the digital data from this project and asked to produce maps showing the locations of farmers markets, grocers, and pick-your-owns in relationship to land with good agricultural potential. The list of farmers and outlets was created through interviews with farmers, some of whom had small mailing lists for like-minded individuals throughout the region (not all of which were in Hays County), from websites such as the Austin Farmers Market (http://www.austinfarmersmarket.org/), through the phone book, and by attending farmers markets and noting the names of participating farmers (Appendix A). The students expanded upon the initial request by utilizing the GIS to try to better understand the relationship between currently operating sustainable farmers and the establishments mentioned, above. The physical addresses of these establishments were converted to longitude and latitude coordinates, creating points that could be placed on the maps. “Service areas” were created by asking the GIS to create a “buffer” around each point encompassing all streets that could be reached within one, two and three miles of the establishment. These service areas are idealized representations of the relative proximity between the farms and outlets for their goods, such that farms falling within the service areas would maximize the “return” on their produce. Figures 14a-c illustrate these service areas in relationship to the location of known sustainable farms (additional maps and further description of the undergraduates’ work is found in Appendix B). Individual examination of Figures 14a-c indicates that few farmers are within an ideal distance of outlets for their goods.
As Figures 4 and 13 illustrate, most agricultural activity in Hays County is located on the flatter, eastern side of the county, overlying the Edwards Aquifer (Figure 1). However, the majority of the county is located to the west of Interstate 35 in an area characterized by less desirable soils interspersed by “pockets” of good agricultural potential. Consequently, the challenges facing sustainable agriculturalists living in that part of the county are much different than for those who are farming in the east.

This mapping and inventory of agricultural operations in Hays County indicates that such operations are typically:

1) relatively small enterprises  
2) located away from well-traveled roads,  
3) involve farms between 5-100 acres in size,  
4) have very few employees,  
5) are centered on the production of a limited or specialized product line, and  
6) are oriented toward local markets (i.e., farmers markets).

In short, the above characteristics, in concert with the County’s topographic, soil, and other physical properties, cause these farms to occupy somewhat remote (off the “beaten path”) “pockets” of terrain. This fact makes such farms unique and therefore attractive to both rural and non-rural residents as destinations for acquiring locally produced food.
items. Subsequent discussion will elaborate on what we have chosen to refer to as “Pocket Farms”. A formal and informal definition of such farms will be offered, as well as commentary on their contributions to their local communities and hence their levels of “social capital” (community standing), their potential role in preserving agriculture and open space in Hays County, and the kind of support Pocket Farmers need in order to thrive.
Network Service Area Between Sustainable Farms And Ranches To Farmers Markets In Hays County.
Network Analysis Between Sustainable Farms And Ranches To Grocers In Hays County.

Figure 14b. Service area/Grocers.
Network Service Area Between Sustainable Farms And Ranches To Health Food Stores In Hays County.

Figure 14c. Service area/Health food stores.
Section Three

Sustainable Agriculture in Hays County—the "Pocket Farm"

The Pocket Farm

The concept of a Pocket Farm initially emerged in the research as a conceptual counterpart to the notion of a pocket- or vest-pocket park, as the idea is expressed in fields such as urban planning and landscape architecture. For example, Blake (No Date, p. 1) describes pocket parks as follows:

Pocket parks, also known as mini-parks or vest-pocket parks, are urban open space at the very small scale. Usually only a few house lots in size or smaller, pocket parks can be tucked into and scattered throughout the urban fabric where they serve the immediately local population.

These diminutive parks tend to act as scaled-down neighborhood parks, but still often try to meet a variety of needs. Functions can include small event space, play areas for children, spaces for relaxing or meeting friends, taking lunch breaks, etc. They can be a refuge from the bustle of surrounding urban life and offer opportunities for rest and relaxation.

Similarly, the City Council of Brent (a city in Great Britain whose parks have won numerous awards) and the London Parks and Garden Trust (LPGT) define a pocket park as a small green space located in an unexpected place, some of whose properties include:

- small
- often secreted
- often limited access due to location
- heavily used, especially by local people
- unlikely to be marketed due to already high levels of local use
- market research unlikely to be carried out (Brent Council 2007; LPGT No Date).

Of particular interest from the above definitions is how pocket parks are described as small or very small; are scattered across the landscape, tucked away, secreted, or found in unexpected places; largely serve local populations but also considered a refuge from urban life; and lack marketing.

Figure 15 shows the locations of 15 farms in Hays County participating in what we considered to be “sustainable agriculture”. The Figure shows that 12 of the farms are located from the center of the county to the western border. Of these 12, three are located on or near the major roads depicted on the map, the rest are not. Like the pocket parks described above, these Pocket Farms are largely scattered across the landscape, tucked away in “secret” (i.e., not observable by the casual passersby) and unexpected places.
Figure 15. Location of sustainable agriculturalists in Hays County.

As the notion of “Pocket Farms” developed over the course of the research, an attempt was made to determine if the term had been used earlier. While no use of the term was found in a conventional literature review of academic journals, a reference was located on a web log, also known as a “blog”. Blogs are a form of journaling where an individual can post their thoughts, upload pictures, and generally communicate with the outside world about anything that “strikes their fancy”. This person was managing a blog called, “Pocketfarm: A Blog”. Discovering this blog provided an opportunity to uncover a potential conceptual link between pocket parks and Pocket Farms by examining the manner by which people are inclined to informally define Pocket Farms. The operator was contacted and asked if she could, in turn, ask her readers for their definitions of a Pocket Farm. Below are the definitions submitted in response to the question, including one response that recapped several earlier responses. The question appeared on a July 7, 2007 blog, along with a picture of a barn that was under construction and comments about progress on the barn (Appendix C).

Responses:

- I’m fairly ignorant about farming, but I recently started my own kitchen garden and hope to grow and raise more and more of our food each year. To my mind, a Pocket
Farm is about self-sustaining...not necessarily a lot of land, but more about good use of the land, enabling the farmers to provide for themselves.

- I think the name Pocket Farm has a nice ring to it, and seems to contain all that you intend. Since visiting for the first time, I have joined a CSA, and started my own small garden.

- To me, a “Pocket Farm” is a small farm that’s meant for just the farmer and the farmer’s family. I guess my concept is that it’s small enough to put in your pocket. Of course, it’s also hard for me to separate the idea of a Pocket Farm from what I know about your farm specifically.

- I’d almost say it’s interchangeable with the word “mini.” Aren’t “pocket” dogs those little fashion dogs people carry around in little purses? Not that your farm has anything in common with a rhinestone collared chihuahua...but it’s a farm, just on a smaller scale. And if you’ve got a Pocket Farm going, then me and my balcony “crops” are a Pocket Lint Farm. ;-)

- I guess I would define a Pocket Farm as a farm that was “tucked into” somewhere, like a valley, or in the middle of a non-farming area. I guess “tucked-in” is what the phrase brings mostly to mind, and as a “farm” it would, by definition, be a place where food was grown.

- I agree with Carole—a farm for the farmers’ family. I guess I also think of it as being maybe under 20 acres.

- Hmmm, good question. I would have thought something having to do with small size, but to me a farm isn’t a farm without both veggies and a variety of animals, so there’d be that aspect of being at least somewhat self-sustaining (on a small scale, I guess). Certainly not some industrial place. I guess I’d go along with the idea of it supplying food for just the family who lives there (and maybe a few goodies for neighbors or friends).

- I’d say under five acres. I’m probably way overestimating. But in my 1/16th acre backyard, I’m already growing enough vegetables for one family, at least this summer. No livestock here (not allowed). In your case, I’m thinking hard work, every day, with some excess to sell.

- I think Pocket Farm is a more poetic way to say “mini-farm”. My mind conjures 5-10 acres, a big garden & fruit trees, a few chickens and goats.

- I like what Bezzie said. For what it’s worth, you and James grow a LOT and actually have a decent chunk of land, so maybe I am another Pocket Lint farmer! :-)
I had no clue what a Pocket Farm would be, which is why I asked you, and your description of living in a “Pocket” area and valley gave me a mental pic of those spots where fog does not lift when all around you it has early in the morning. Quite clear definition I’d say.

I am not familiar with the term other than the use in your blog title. If it weren’t for your blog I might’ve thought it was much smaller than yours, perhaps even in someone’s backyard in a town/city. Now I might say a couple acres at most, and definitely with a diversity of produce.

Pocket Farm is to me a small, cozy family farm. That is what I pictured when I found your blog. I have a “watch pocket sized farm”. :)

I think Pocket Farm is a smallish farm (20 to 75 acres) that is located in an area where it would not be expected. Like Michael Ableman and his urban farm in California.

#24 to enclose or confine in or as if in a pocket: (The town was pocketed in a small valley.) - Seems this is the general idea that you had in naming your farm. Very applicable for sure. #19 relatively small; smaller than usual: (a pocket war; a pocket country.) - This is another good meaning for pocket that would no doubt make sense in this context. #7 any isolated group, area, element, etc., contrasted, as in status or condition, with a surrounding element or group: (pockets of resistance; a pocket of poverty in the central city.) - This one, however, is the meaning that I get from it. When I read your blog, it’s like you have a small “pocket” of peace here on earth. You have built and are building a “pocket” of resistance to the world and what is the norm.

I love to read about your Pocket Farm, and aspire to make my suburban place a “Pocket Home”.

My definition of Pocket Farm is having enough land for sustainable living. We’re doing that on two acres, but I know it can be done on less.

Oh! I thought of another one! That farm’s so cute, I want to pick it up and put it in my pocket :)

I think of a Pocket Farm as a small to medium size acreage (3 to 20 acres) that has a garden, perhaps a few animals, and where the people are using the space to have their own food or to make a little “pocket money” from eggs or vegetables at a market or honey from hives. I would say we have a Pocket Farm, we have a garden, pets, donkeys (which are pets for mowing the hill), and have the start of a chicken coop so hopefully will have laying hens soon.

As suggested by the responses noted above, while a precise definition of a Pocket Farm may be elusive, as was the case with the notion of pocket parks, the central elements are as follows: Size, location, and function. For some people, the typical size of a Pocket Farm is quantifiable (e.g., 5 to 10 acres, under 20 acres). Others, however, prefer
descriptive expressions such as small, smallish, or cozy. As to where Pocket Farms are typically located, there was wide variation in the descriptions, but a central notion was the idea of a somewhat unexpected location or a location that did not dominate the landscape.

In terms of function, while many elements within the responses to the blog query mirror elements described for pocket parks there is one important difference. For purposes of this report’s definition, and contrary to some of the responses noted above, Pocket Farms also provide income to the growers—the produce is not meant simply for personal consumption. Therefore, Pocket Farms are a source of income as well as possible employment, represent part of the county’s tax base, and consequently have marketing needs that are dramatically different from the needs of a pocket park.

Finally, again with respect to function, the notion of sustainability was implicit, if not explicit in some responses (e.g., “My definition of Pocket Farm is having enough land for sustainable living. We’re doing that on two acres, but I know it can be done on less”). In at least one case, the function was seen as making something of a philosophical statement, for instance, the Pocket Farmer had built and was building a “pocket” of resistance to the world and what is regarded as the norm. This philosophical stance may not be uncommon amongst Pocket Farmers. An example far from Texas was located, where a Pasadena family created a Pocket Farm on 1/5 acre of land lying a block from a multilane highway. On this tiny acreage, they grow enough food to be self sufficient as well as generate income by supplying produce to local restaurants. For the 60-year old father of the family, their self-sufficiency represents a “form of protest” (Wilson 2008, p. 67). This philosophical or personal political quality that attaches to what might be called the Pocket Farming Question brings us full circle to our original research focus — namely whether the farming operations that we describe as Pocket Farms can serve as a landscape element that holds promise as a mediating instrument in on-going tug of war between the agricultural sector and rural fringe development. For an examination of that specific question, we turn to the notion of social capital.

Social Capital

The concept of social capital found its way into the lexicon of popular culture with the publication of *Bowling Alone* by Robert Putnam (2000). It is safe to say that part of the widespread popularity of Putnam’s book was its sweeping focus on patterns of social interaction in American society at the dawn of the new millennium. That focus, along with a somewhat intriguing title, probably explains the movement of the book into both academic and popular market circles.

For Putnam, social capital arises out of the various social networks that surround individuals or collectivities. For example, an individual may have a certain amount of social capital in direct relationship to the extent that he/she has membership in a variety of organizations, associations or entities. Although Putnam sees the amount of social capital in our society as declining, he suggests that the exercise of social capital is central to the maintenance of a democratic society.
As a concept, the notion of social capital certainly has some intuitive appeal, and even though Putnam has his critics, the criticisms often attach to measurement issues as opposed to the substantive notion, itself. That said, one point should be raised here, and it traces back to our use of the word, *may*, with respect to the amount of social capital that a person may or may not have. In short, we are of the opinion that social capital, at least in the present instance, is better treated as a concept that has reality only if it is exercised. In other words, a person or a group of persons may have the potential for possessing social capital through their various associations or networks, but the capital has to be exercised for it to exist.

For sake of illustration, consider the case of our 15 Pocket Farmers within the county, a county that is undergoing significant population expansion into its more rural portions. It might well be the case that such Pocket Farming operations could serve a variety of positive functions through cooperative efforts with one or more local government structures, and the operations, in turn, might benefit as well. As an example, a cooperative effort between Pocket Farm operators and small communities or the county government might be to promote agritourism or ecotourism — something that could add to the local economic development effort while enhancing the flow of revenue to the individual farm operations (Busby and Rendle 2000; Clemens 2004; Nickerson et al. 2001). Another example might be found in a negotiated settlement to a land use controversy — one in which one or more Pocket Farms serve as a buffer between an ever increasing urbanized fringe area and rural communities.

Such activities, however, require some measure of cooperation or acting in concert of at least some of the parties involved. Our examination of the picture in Hays County, however, suggests that there is little, if any, measurable cooperative efforts on the part of the Pocket Farming operators. Yes, it is clear that most of the operators are aware of one another, and, in some cases, the amount of knowledge is significant. For example, it is common for operators to know the size of each others’ operations and what is being produced. In some cases, the level of knowledge extends to the more personal, e.g., knowing about recent hardships such as a death in the family or happier news such as the birth of child. What was equally clear, however, was that the collection of Pocket Farm operators in Hays County fails to function as a community. Rather, the collection of operators exists in what is perhaps best described as an insular environment. Our reasoning for making such a statement follows.

**Sustainable Agriculture and Social Capital As a Factor in Conflict Resolution**

Recent articles have questioned why farm families have been relatively slow to adopt sustainable agricultural systems and at least one rural sociologist has been convinced that the lack of adoption of these practices is a social problem, not a technological one (Salamon et al. 1997). Rural sociologists have long known that the adoption of any new technology or approach (the "diffusion of innovation") follows a certain communication process that extends over time, and it looks as if sustainable agriculture is still in the "early adopter" phase, where sustainable practitioners are seen as ahead of their time, and also as potential role models (Rogers and Burdge 1972, 357; Thayer 1994, 317).
Salamon et al. (1997) argue that the transition to sustainable farming systems requires a "fundamental paradigm shift" and that sustainable farmers have a family history of being early adopters as well as a tendency to be prudent in resource use in all parts of their lives. Flora (1995) argues that,

movement toward sustainability involves constant awareness of the holistic nature of the farm enterprise and ongoing evaluation of the achievement of both financial and environmental goals as related to different practices,

and that

because sustainable agriculture is a process and not a win/lose event, farmers use information to assess alternatives; they may discuss alternatives and disagree with fellow sustainable agriculturalists while still respecting them. They may also mobilize their internal resources and use inclusive networking. These are all components of an entrepreneurial form of social infrastructure which contributes to social capital. The local community is challenged to respond to changing farming conditions in a manner that enhances the health, well-being, economic security, and civic participation of its residents while maintaining the integrity of surrounding ecological systems . . . hallmarks of a sustainable community. (p. 2)

Social capital theory, which has come into widespread usage by social scientists in the past few years, is useful for assessing adaptability to change. The work of Putnam (1993, 1995) has made social capital a focus for research and policy discussion because the networks of civic engagement and the normative structures embodied by them determine in large part how community problems will be addressed and resolved. The World Bank uses the theory to argue that increasing evidence shows that social cohesion is critical for communities to prosper economically and to ensure that development is sustainable (Woolcock and Narayan 2000). The working definition of social capital employed in this project is "resources embedded in a social structure which are accessed and/or mobilized in purposive actions" (Borgatti 1999, n.p.). Similarly, Flora (1995, p. 3) notes that,

social capital is composed of norms of reciprocity and mutual trust . . . and Putnum (1993, pp. 35-36) . . . operationalizes social capital as 'features of social organization . . . that facilitate coordination and cooperation for mutual benefit. Social capital enhances the benefits of investment in physical and human capital'.

It is important to try to measure social capital at the community level because of its importance to overall community sustainability. In the case of Hays County, for instance, it remains to be ascertained whether Pocket Farmers in the community are viewed as deviants, or as confrontational, which could cause a decline in social capital, or whether they are viewed as well-respected people with a potentially positive point of view and who add to the "network diversity" of the community and hence, its social capital. Flora's hypothesis concerning these issues of social capital and sustainability in four communities in the Great Plains and the Corn Belt are utilized in this project. Flora's (1994, 4) hypothesis is that,
an increase in the number of farmers practicing sustainable agriculture will increase the effective social capital in their communities (particularly those rural communities that are more remote from centers of industry and commerce and/or more dependent on agriculture).

Flora used the technique of community ethnographies with open-ended interviews and analysis of local newspapers over time to identify indicators of symbolic diversity, resource mobilization and networking in the community, all dimensions of social capital. Following Flora’s example, this study employed analysis of local newspapers in an attempt to ascertain whether Pocket Farmers in Hays County had measurable social capital, and if so, how they used it. To some extent, though, whether a group has social capital or not depends on the notion of some sort of group identity. If no group identity exists, the social capital goes unused and any ability to affect larger policy decisions (e.g., at the regional, state, or federal level) is basically negated.

Our examination of local newspapers throughout Hays County failed to provide any evidence of cooperative efforts on the part of local farmers or growers (Appendix D). Unlike a variety of civic organizations that routinely found mention in the local press (for example, as an event sponsor, as advocates for certain issues, as entities embroiled in a local controversies), the local growers are noticeable by their absence. Indeed, there was not a single reference to any type of farmers or ranchers organization in our analysis of a year’s worth of every issue published by each of the three newspapers found in the county. Rarely was the word “farm” or “ranch” even used in print. However, two items of note caught our eye, both in the Dripping Springs News Dispatch in May of 2004. The first involved a debate regarding a Lower Colorado River Authority line extension, during which a resident stated, “I couldn’t afford to keep it as a ranch so I had to develop it” (Vol. 15, No. 38, May 12, pp. 1, 5). The second involved the results of an Envision Central Texas survey that revealed residents considered “farm land preservation” to be a very low-priority issue—less important than water availability, transportation needs, development, housing, quality of life, cost of living, and air quality (Vol. 15, No. 39, May 15, pp. 1, 2).

Additionally, our efforts to reach local growers for the purpose of performing individual interviews met with little positive result (Appendix E). There are several possible reasons for our difficulties. As was noted in the Dedication of this document, the original PI for this project, and primary contact for the region’s farmers, passed away two years into this three-year project. Because many farmers in the region knew her and trusted her, her loss had major implications for the research. Pocket Farmers are often working long hours with little assistance, therefore the luxury of participating in the study was not something all of them could “afford”, especially given their unfamiliarity with the researchers who remained on the project. We found it nearly impossible to get Hays County’s Pocket Farmers to respond to requests for interviews and at one point were advised, “don’t expect any response, ‘bout the only way to see them or talk to them would be by visiting the farms and talking to them while they’re working or at farmers markets.” Attempting to conduct interviews while farmers were in the midst of their workday was not feasible, but we did visit farmers markets and attempt to conduct
interviews there (Appendix F). Unfortunately, the number of interruptions caused by buyers’ questions, the confusion caused by cash transactions, and the fact that not all people selling produce at farmers markets are farmers—some are simply “middlemen”—also made this option untenable.

Our experience with one well-connected and active Pocket Farmer in the county should suffice as a final example of the difficulties encountered in trying to collect farmer data. We established contact with this farmer and had two face-to-face interviews, during which the farmer provided interesting insights into the problems faced by Hays County’s Pocket Farmers and evidenced great interest in participating in the work. The individual agreed to vet the cover letter to a survey we considered conducting by mail, and was sent the letter within a week of the interview. Subsequently, the individual could not be reached by phone except through their answering machine, rarely seemed to check their email messages, and ultimately took over two months to provide their feedback on the one-page letter. Based on that experience, we decided to remove the survey instrument from the data collection activities associated with this work.

Finally, people we did communicate with during the course of this research indicated that Pocket Farmers may be uncomfortable being questioned by people considered “government employees”, even when those questions are posed with the best of intentions.

The difficulties we experienced trying to collect data from and about Hays County’s Pocket Farmers does not bode well. Research indicates that “. . . the preservation of a viable agricultural industry requires much more than the protection of farmland through regulatory approaches. . . . the viability of near-urban farms is dependant on the farmers themselves, not only on policies or the purchase of easements” and “. . . adaptive farms . . . survive in near-urban areas, not only by generating enough revenue to resist development, but also by improving their relationship with consumers and neighboring communities” (Brunet 2005, p. 5). Our analysis indicates that Hays County Pocket Farmers are not “visible” to their local communities and/or county officials. Their invisibility negatively impacts their level of social capital, leaving them more vulnerable as the county’s population grows and probably reducing their income potential as well.
Section 4
Discussion

Hays County faces development pressures from both north and south—evidence of which is provided by the county’s population growth. This population growth causes increased withdrawals from already-stressed groundwater resources, especially when large-lot subdivisions are built. Maps depicting the number and size of platted subdivisions in the county between 1995 and 2004 illustrate an enormous growth of these types of development, further confirming what the population figures imply—that Hays County is a desirable place to live (Taboada and Novak 2007).

Analysis of the twenty-three maps used in this study revealed that the physical environment plays a major role in the distribution of agricultural activities in Hays County. Most conventional (large-sized) agricultural potential lies to the east of Interstate 35 while to the west of that road (representing the majority of the county) only small areas of potential farmland exist. In the western side, topography, soil types, and access to water create widely dispersed “pockets” of land suitable for cultivation. Because large, flat swaths of land suitable for suburbanization are less prevalent in the west, these agricultural pockets add to the county’s rural “feel”, helping to provide a “country lane” impression when newcomers discover a “Pocket Farm” selling fresh eggs or other locally grown produce tucked away down a small road.

Using the USDA’s economically-based farm typology, the Pocket Farms described in this paper would probably fall within one of the following categories: “limited resource”, or “farming occupation/low sales”, neither of which recognizes the limitations placed on the farmer in west Hays County by virtue of physical terrain. Expansion is simply not an option in most areas, but the farmer may be considered wildly successful in terms of the amount of income they manage to generate on small plots by selling value-added products. And, while the USDA does acknowledges the importance of the recently defined “emergent adaptive farm”, it is argued here that even that term remains insufficiently descriptive because it ignores the spatial component.

One of the topics geographers love to debate is the idea of “sense of place”. The USDA acknowledged Hays County as a unique place when it placed upon it an amenity value of “4”. People drawn to the county as a place to live and work acknowledge, through their actions, that Hays County is a “place” they wish to inhabit. When people visit a Pocket Farm in search of fresh produce, the spatial setting of that farm, as well as the trip itself, (down winding county roads), enhances the visitor’s experience of finding an “unexpected place”—a small farm, tucked away, hidden among the hills. Unfortunately, there are fewer and fewer hidden places in Hays County as land for such farms is increasingly subdivided for future development. Fortunately, Hays County’s physical setting precludes wholesale subdivision because the terrain is simply too dissected. However, if the county wishes to retain its “place uniqueness” where rural and urban-fringe residents comfortably coexist with agricultural activities (not to mention retaining its USDA amenity rank of “4”), Pocket Farms need to play a role. As the population continues to grow with an accompanying loss of “conventional” agricultural land to the
east of the I-35 corridor, more opportunities could materialize for farming to the west of I-35, if Pocket Farming is encouraged. It is believed that new residents would support such efforts because,

modern transportation has allowed the merging of both the rural and urban life in the countryside. These new “rurbanites” (ex-urbanites) have the desire to keep the rural landscape unchanged despite their impact on the social, environmental and cultural heritage. There is also a desire for local food . . . . As a consequence, local agriculture and community gardens have once again gained values in the eyes of the urban people (Fleury et. al., 2004). It is also clear that farming activities adapted to urbanizing regions provide rural amenities that are profitable both for the farmer and the surrounding population. (Brunet 2005, p. 9)
Section Five
Conclusion and Recommendations

The purpose of this research was to try to answer the question: To what extent can “sustainable agriculture” ameliorate land use conflicts in a rapidly urbanizing but still largely rural area? Methods used to address the question included: 1) obtaining information regarding the current status of sustainable farming in Hays County (performing map analysis to determine where it was being practiced and whether expansion to other areas in the county was feasible), 2) examining how sustainable farmers interact with their local communities (through newspaper content analysis), and 3) speculating on how such interaction could be improved in order to enhance and/or expand the role of sustainable farming in the county (through interviews and a survey).

The research revealed a type of farming that, while unique in its character, is probably not unique to Hays County—the Pocket Farm. Pocket Farms are “small”, “cozy” farms a few acres in size typically secreted away in somewhat unexpected locations off major roads. Pocket Farms are prevented from growing too large due to the physical constraints posed by geography, but their existence down winding roads in the hills only adds to their allure for tired city residents, who seek them out for their fresh produce and a nice “drive in the country”.

Unfortunately, population growth in Hays County threatens the existence of such farms as more land is subdivided for residential use and people with little concern for the needs of farmers move into the region. With low levels of social capital, the Pocket Farmers find themselves in an interesting dilemma—their activities have helped keep the county’s USDA amenity level high, but that high level is attracting more residents who may not only be unaware of their existence, they are also unaware that Pocket Farmers help protect the very amenities (e.g., water/air quality) that caused them to wish to reside in the county in the first place. It is believed that some level of acknowledgement of the importance of Pocket Farmers by local, county, and regional decision makers is necessary in order for Hays County to avoid becoming a “bedroom extension” of Austin and San Antonio. The first steps in that effort would be for the incorporated cities of Hays County to pass ordinances encouraging such farming (or, to revise current ordinances that discourage such activities), allowing farmers markets special exemptions from sign ordinances in order for them to advertise when they are open and where they are located, and perhaps to combine their resources to create more permanent and/or accessible sites for the markets to sell their produce. The County can assist Pocket Farmers by engaging in more aggressive marketing campaigns, and by ensuring County Agricultural Extension Agents and Chambers of Commerce are aware of these farmers’ existence.

Suggestions for future research include building on the undergraduate effort initiated here by using advanced network analysis to more thoroughly examine the optimum placement of farmers markets given current population distribution and taking into account those markets that exist across the county’s border. The results of such research could help local, county, and regional decision makers support the efforts of local farmers by establishing the most appropriate locales for farmers markets. More research is also
needed to determine if the lack of correlation between the farm locations and the possible outlets for their goods was a result of which element (farm or outlet) first appeared on the landscape. Additional network analysis could also determine if the farms are considered to be more optimally located if all three outlet types are processed simultaneously instead of individually.

Because it is possible for Pocket Farms to exist on far less acreage than the 5-100 acre range used in this study, a smaller category of Pocket Farm should be created and studied, perhaps using the nomenclature of “Pocket Watch Farm” (alluded to in the Pocket Farm Blog as a “watch pocket farm”). The size of Pocket Watch Farms would range from less than one to up to 5 acres.

While agritourism was not discussed in detail in this report, we believe it has a definite role to play (see Schilling et al. 2006 for a detailed report addressing agritourism) in the support of Pocket Farming. Using Hays County’s four wineries as an example, in the year 2000 there were 40 wineries in the entire state of Texas, five years later that number had more than doubled to 113 (MKF 2005). How many more wineries will be built in Hays County is unknown, but it is suspected that there will be more—the Texas Hill Country is not only the largest appellation in Texas, it is the 2nd largest in the nation, measuring over nine million acres (MKF 2005). In addition to the wineries are entrepreneurs growing olives, lavender, exotics, wildflowers, even raising miniature donkeys. However, successful agritourism requires support and assistance at the county level (e.g., through marketing and passage of appropriate ordinances). Due to the growth of non-agricultural activities (cities, businesses) on the eastern side of the county, if decision makers wish Hays County to retain its USDA amenities rank of “4”, it will be necessary to protect and expand upon those areas with good agricultural potential located on the western side of the county.

Pocket Farms in Hays County are of sufficient import to warrant efforts at the local, county, and regional level to encourage such farming. If supported and marketed appropriately, Pocket Farmers represent a largely untapped source of employment and therefore opportunity for the residents of Hays County. Unfortunately, the major hindrance in promoting Pocket Farms may be the farmers, themselves. The largest stumbling block encountered in the course of this research was the difficulty trying to interview and/or survey the Pocket Farmers we identified. We attribute a large part of this failure to the loss of our friend and colleague, Sue Johnson, who was the original Principal Investigator on this grant. Sue possessed decades of knowledge about farming and agricultural practices, was personal friends with many local farmers, and as a “known entity” was critical to the project’s success. After her passing, we struggled with the problem of carrying out the research as best we could without overstepping the boundaries of our own areas of expertise. Consequently, the interview/survey aspect of this work is not as complete as originally envisioned. Rather than using survey instruments or structured interviews we suggest that future researchers use an anthropological or ethnographic approach (i.e., participant observation) to collect data in order to produce more acceptable results.
As this report reconfirms, agriculture is not just “. . . a means of producing food, but [also] for maintaining food security, preserving rural landscapes, and protecting the environment” (Veeck et al. 2006). Our final impression upon completing this research is that Pocket Farmers will probably continue to exist without interference—these are a group of independently minded and very busy individuals. However, to improve the status of the Pocket Farmer in Hays County, to increase not only their sales but help retain the county’s rural feel, to protect the environment that is drawing so many people to the Hill Country while providing the amenities they desire, will probably require action on the part of decision makers without active participation from the farmers. For, it is not just the Pocket Farms that are scattered about and tucked away in “secret” places, but the farmers, themselves.
References


United States Department of Agriculture/Soil Conservation Service (USDA/SCS). 1981. “Soil Survey of Comal and Hays Counties, Texas.” In cooperation with Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, College Station, Texas.


Appendix A

Regional Listing of Sustainable Farmers
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<th>No.</th>
<th>Last Name</th>
<th>First Name(s)</th>
<th>Farm/Ranch Name</th>
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<td>Lee</td>
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Appendix B

Undergraduate Notes and Maps
(also available as downloadable files at:
http://geosites.evans.txstate.edu/~g4427s07-04/)
Matt Reyes
Project Manager

Jennifer Bock
GIS Analyst

Valerie Welch
GIS Analyst

Mark Donica
Web Design/Analyst
# Table of Contents

1.0 Abstract.............................................................................................................4  
2.0 Introduction and Problem Statement............................................................5  
  2.1 Scope.............................................................................................................6  
3.0 Data..................................................................................................................7  
  3.1 Data Processing..............................................................................................7  
  3.2 Soils...............................................................................................................8  
  3.3 Subdivisions..................................................................................................8  
  3.4 Digital Elevation Models.............................................................................8  
  3.5 Point Data....................................................................................................9  
  3.6 Network Analysis.......................................................................................9  
  3.7 Hardware, Software and Workstations......................................................10  
4.0 Methods............................................................................................................10  
5.0 Results..............................................................................................................14  
6.0 Discussion........................................................................................................18  
  6.1 Subdivisions.................................................................................................18  
  6.2 Soils.............................................................................................................18  
  6.3 Network Analysis.......................................................................................19
Abstract

This purpose of this project is to understand more completely the growth and development of Hays County, Texas as it affects factors of agriculture, suburban land usage, and the population across the county. Between April 1, 2000 and July 2, 2005, Hays County experienced a population growth rate from 97,566 to 124,432. This qualifies the county as the 35th fastest growing county in the nation (Cox News Service). Research gathered in a project conducted by professors at Texas State University suggests that by utilizing new techniques of a more balanced stewardship of the land. Current agriculture activities can be maintained in a manner that resolves the conflict between development and conservation. This new concept integrates environmental health, economic profitability, social and economic equity to influence the policies of city councils and other local governing bodies. Through the use of a GIS, it is possible to illustrate tangible evidence that supports the use of this concept in the future. Analyses in this project used preliminary data gathered by the analysts previously in the project. Network analysis of the road network of the county along with the digital layout of the terrain gave us the most results. Overall, the results of this project illustrated the current situation afflicting the introduction of sustainable agriculture as a means of future development. New projections show an outlook on the current landscape that can be passed on to other counties with semi-arid conditions with similar growth trends.
Our Company

Sustainable Futures is comprised of four Geography students in the 4427 GIS class. It was created in part for the purpose in aiding the research of Dr. Showalter, a research associate professor at Texas State University.

Introduction and Problem Statement

Hays County is experiencing a 15 percent growth rate each year since 2000. This rapid growth has inevitably lead to subdivision growth into the county’s rural countryside. When development of this level is in an area that has had on economy based primarily on agriculture, new concepts must be taken into thought. The primary purpose of our study was to bring about this new concept to Hays County. It is believed by the members of Sustainable Futures that this concept can be applied to our current landscape.

Stewardship of the land and its natural resources involves maintaining or enhancing this vital resource base for the long term (U or CA). Given regard to the Counties changing economic growth we will focus part of our study to the investigation of the locations of farmers markets, grocers, and pick your owns to the current location of farmland. The counties road Network has been obtained and will hopefully show us the locations of possible future placement of these establishments in order to minimize the distance/ decay effect the amount of travel has on the product that is sold.
Another key component of Sustainable Agriculture is the type of soil in which the crop is grown from. The fertile nature of the soil has a drastic effect on the amount of crop that can be produced in any given month, with consideration to the type of vegetation it is and the ideal environmental conditions which necessary to give the most promising results. In our analysis we will identify key areas of Hays County that have the correct type of soil for the specific crop that is produced.

The present subdivision growth in Hays County is the primary focus of Sustainable Futures. In order to avoid widespread growth with little precaution to the changing landscape we will demonstrate what the current growth trends have been on the landscape in recent years. Our expected results from this investigation include the possibility that most subdivisions are an ever growing developmental concern that is cancerous in nature.

2.1 Scope

The area of our study will be limited to Hays County Texas. Hays County is located between Travis and Bexar Counties. The majority of traffic exists through the city along the IH-35 corridor that connects Austin to San Marcos then to San Antonio, Texas.

Data

The data used in this project was initially obtained from our client, Dr. Pam Showalter. We were given 10 compact discs that included all of the research from her previous project. This included Hays County lot lines from 2000 and 2004 as well as other unknown files from the Hays County property appraisals office that did not have
metadata. The maps from the previous project were exported as adobe acrobat files and were also included for reference. The majority of this initial gathered data was in raster based files of the county. This included all the DOQQs from the year 2002 and the surrounding concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFO) data. CAFO’s are farms that raise livestock for the purpose of maximizing the efficiency of space and other resources. Combined digital elevation models were also included. The Vector files gathered included various point, line, and polygon based shape files. For simplicity we chose to use GCS North American 1983 for the coordinate system with a Lambertian conformal conic projection.

3.1 Data Processing

This initial data obtained was our main source of information on the county. The first step in our project called for the collection of the most current data. This step included going through each dataset to find what needed to be updated. This new data was acquired by downloading, finding a different source with a more current file, making trips around the county to discuss relevant information or obtaining from a remote database. Some of the feature data sets that had more updated versions available when we created metadata files for them.

3.2 Soils

For the most part, this data was not vitally important to our purpose in our analysis. Overlay was a primary means of locating the areas of interest in our study area. For the soils dataset, a column data entry was required to include animal unit value (AUM) to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) soil map attribute table. The AUM data was also provided by the USDA. The soils dataset yielded many
important themes of our study. Primarily, we wanted to illustrate the vitality of the area by the type soil in the ground. We first expected that soils in this county were very fertile for the majority of the open space. What we found however, is that this is mostly concentrated on the eastern side of IH-35. More reasons for this will follow.

3.3 Subdivisions

Overlay analysis was also used in creating the time change of subdivisions maps. This was a series of layers that displayed growth around the county in various areas. The latest growth projection was information from the year 2005. Initially, we assumed we could create an interpolated surface that showed this growth expanding into the countryside many years into the future. Upon further investigation into the methods required for this purpose, we concluded that it would be beyond the means of our time or resources to create a projection of that type. The result we did come out with is a simple fact based map composition that illustrates growth for the years of 1995, 2002 and 2005.

3.4 Digital Elevation Models

Hays County is situated in a precarious part of the state known as the Hill Country. The Balcones escarpment is a large fault line that separates the county most recognizably from our data. With and other features appearing to have drastic change over the county we can logically assume that changes in elevation are a large part of the county. Slope changes were analyzed with the digital information provided on the elevation models of the county area. This raster surface showed a great amount of topography change over the western portion of the county. A surface analysis of this region is essential to understanding the level of incline some lots of the county are located on.
3.5 Point Data

Some of the data layers we created resulted from reclassifying slope data from the DEM. This information was important for the production. The layers for locating sites of the current grocers in Hays County were created using their known addresses. The addresses were found by following the contact information provided by Dr. Showalter. When it was discovered that the known addresses could not be inputted into our GIS by entry alone, it was then necessary to create a file that had these points displayed using their longitude and latitude coordinates. This information was provided by an online source.

3.6 Network Analysis

The Network analysis portion required various shape files. What we did not have initially and what was required was a network dataset in which the network analyst function could properly calculate statistics on. This was not included in the initial data obtained so a process for creating it was necessary.

3.7 Hardware, Software and Workstations

All analysis for this project was conducted using ESRI software. Recent advancements in this program gave us the ability to use ArcGIS version 9.2 on the workstations inside the computer labs at Texas State. From a copy of this software provided by Dr. Giordano some of us were able to conduct part of the analysis on personal computers.
Methods

Our analysis focused around the manipulation of the data we’ve initially gathered. In the beginning we started using a simple overlay analysis to show the open space around the county. Working backwards from spaces we know we could not locate a sustainable farm was the most important aspect of our planned analysis. The results raised more questions surrounding the proper locations of farmland in Hays County. For instance, farming areas are restrained by the amount degree of slope in the area but this does not take into account other factors of that area. In order to produce the most delineating output of information, our map would overlay multiple layers of information to show the most promising aspects of the land. Overlay is a common GIS operation with no extension required to operate. Inside ArcGIS it was necessary to use the spatial analyst and network analyst extensions. In addition for the image on the poster it was required to use the ArcScene 3D analyst.

4.1 Subdivisions

Beginning with the subdivisions, our overlay analysis combined data taken from three separate years. This map set was made by adding data that shows the boundaries of subdivisions located in Hays County. The subdivision data is of three different years, 1995, 2002 and 2005. Other layers added include Hays County roads, borders and city boundaries. The roads layer was edited so that one road that was split connects like it should. The layers were also run through a query to select only the roads that would be
relevant to a map at this scale and in this context. The map illustrates the rapid growth of subdivisions in three successive stages.

4.2 Soils

The USDA defines prime farmland soils as those that are best suited for producing food, feed, forage, fiber and oilseed crops. These soils are suitable favorable to the sustained production of high yield crops. Prime farmland soils produce the highest yields with minimal energy and cash inputs, and farming areas with these soils results in the least damage to the environment. About 18 percent of Hays county (77,327 acres) is prime farmland.

We created this map through several steps. First, we started with a base layer map of all the soil types in Hays county provided by the USDA. Next, we edited the attribute table so that only soil types considered prime farmlands where included. Finally, we added a layer showing the location of urban areas in Hays county.

4.3 Network Analysis

These maps were created by the acquisition of primary data for the grocers, health food stores, pick your own produce and finally for the farmers markets that are known to be located within Hays Co. The first step that was taken was obtaining the addresses of the above mentioned Hays Co. markets known to have some type of business relationship to sustainable farms and ranches within Hays Co. from the local Yellow Pages.

The sustainable farms and ranches data was secondary data as it was passed down to us from client Pam Showalter. The data was given to us in an Excel worksheet with name and address of both farm and ranch. From that point the data for sustainable farms
and ranches in Hays Co was otherwise built in the same way the information obtained from the yellow pages for the markets in Hays Co were.

The next segment of the analysis was the creation of point feature that represents the locations of the markets in Hays Co with the editing tool based on the latitude and longitude of the markets address. The analysis settings were opened to set the properties to be used and to generate the service areas such resulting in polygons and lines using the polygon generation and the line generation tab. When the analysis setting parameters were “set”, and the solve button performed the final portion of analysis that demonstrates the resulting service area polygon that surrounds the facility point feature that you see on this map.

4.4 Slope Reclassification

Spatial analyst was used to produce a slope surface from the digital elevation model of Hays County. This surface was then reclassified to outline three levels of slope change percentage. The levels had to be calculated by taking the height value and dividing it by the maximum height to come up with a percentage. For simplicity we chose to display the landscape using only three levels of consideration those being: mostly flat, some incline, and unusable. Likewise it was necessary to show what these surfaces may look like if one were to observe them from above. Insets featuring this portion of land were included as a reference.

4.5 Main Overlay of the County

As mentioned earlier, our study was primarily based on the analysis of overlaying several layers to show land currently not available for agriculture development. The consideration going into what layers were to be included in this map took into account
what areas took up the most space across the study area, what areas are most unknown, and what areas changed the value of the land as a whole. These layers included: cities, roads, floodplains and floodways, conservation easements, gravel pits, industrial sites, the 2005 subdivision locations, and non-grazing land based on soil type. The manipulation of the color scheme for the various layers took the most time in creating a clear map. When the features could finally be distinguished from each other, the 2D map image was still a rather unclear representation of open space. Given consideration to what message we wanted to bring across to the view a new method was conceived.

4.6 ArcScene Incorporation

The use of ArcScene was necessary to produce a 3D image that showed the open space of Hays County in a more understandable and clear way. This required importing all the layers used in the main overlay analysis into a new ArcScene. These vector layers were first combined in ArcMap using a union analysis to create an output feature class that added together all these features (unusable area). An erase function was then applied to the Hays County area polygon to create a feature class of the areas outside of this union (open space). In the ArcScene program we then offset to this open space layer base height by 2500 unitless measures to make it hover over the used ground. This was then exported into a JPEG with 350 pixel resolution and inserted into the main poster display.

Results

5.1 Subdivisions
5.2 Soils

AUMs, or Animal – Unit - Month, represent the amount of forage or feed required to feed one animal unit for 30 days. An animal unit is equal to one cow, horse or mule; or five goats or sheep. We made this map by editing the USDA’s soil map attributes to include a column for AUM, and then entering the data given by the USDA for each soil type found in Hays County.
5.3 Network Analysis

Network Service Area Between Sustainable Farms And Ranches To Health Food Stores In Hays County.

Network Service Area Between Sustainable Farms And Ranches To Farmers Markets In Hays County.
Network Analysis Between Sustainable Farms And Ranches To Grocers In Hays County.

Network Service Area Between Sustainable Farms And Ranches To Pick Your Own Produce Facilities In Hays County.
5.4 Main Overlay

### Current Open Space in Hays County

- Open Space
- Unusable Land
- 2005 Subdivisions
- Cities
- Roads
- Floodplains and Floodways
- Conservation Easements
- Gravel Pits
- Industrial Sites
- Non-grazing land based on soil type
Discussion

6.1 Subdivisions

These maps illustrate the rapid subdivision growth in Hays County between the years 1995 and 2005. Subdivisions in Hays County grew by 65 square miles between 1995 and 2002. This is a 44% increase. As you can see, they continue to grow rapidly based on the subdivisions growth from that 10 year period.

6.2 Soils

Land capability classification shows the suitability of soil types for most types of field crops. Soils are grouped based on their limitations, risk of damage if used for field crops and the way they respond to management. We created this map by adding a column to the attribute table of the USDA soil type map that showed LCC.

Class I Soils – Slight limitations that restrict use

Class II Soils – Moderate limitations reduce plant choice or require special conservation practices, or both.

Class III Soils - Severe limitations reduce plant choice or require special conservation practices, or both.

Class IV Soils – Very severe limitations reduce plant choice or require very special management, or both.

Class V Soils – Not likely to erode, but have other limitations, impractical to remove, that limit their use.

Class VI Soils – Severe limitations make these soils generally unsuitable for cultivation

Class VII Soils – Very severe limitations make these soils unsuitable for cultivation
Class VIII Soils – Limitations nearly preclude these areas from use for commercial crop production.

E – Main limitation is erosion

W – Water in or on the soil interferes with crop growth

S – Soil is shallow, droughty or stony.

6.3 Network Analysis

The network service area we used in this project was the region that encompassed all accessible streets in Hays County. For this network analysis, we used the length in feet to determine the service area that included all the streets that could be reached within one, two and three miles from the chosen market within Hays Co. We then used the location of the sustainable farms and ranches to the location of the markets service area within Hays Co. The market service areas were created by network analyst to evaluate accessibility. Concentric service area polygons show how accessibility varies with length impedance in this example.

6.4 Main Overlay of the County

These maps illustrate the rather distressful outlook on Hays County as a whole. The methodology we went about to analyze open space could have been more inclusive to show areas in which sustainable agriculture was no longer possible if the proper time allowed us to incorporate more resources for information. With this information we were able to determine that for the most part Hays County was experiencing a large decline in conservation at the local level.
6.5 Website

The aim of our website is to display the information we found, while presenting our company in a positive way to the public. This is achieved through the way in which the content is formatted and displayed. The content of the website includes all of the maps and documents required for our project, links to other related sites supplied by Dr. Showalter, as well as some extra contact information and a paragraph summarizing the aim of the project.

The documents included on the website are the project proposal and PowerPoint presentation, the progress report and PowerPoint presentation, and the final report, its PowerPoint presentation and the final poster in PDF format. Also included on the website is various links to download maps related to the project. These various maps show the AUM per acre, the service area of farmers markets in Hays County, the grocer’s service area, health food stores service area, prime farmland USDA land capability classification, soil types and pick-your-own produce facilities service area. All of these maps are in JPEG format.

All of the graphics on the website were designed in Adobe Photoshop by the web designer. The background image of the website is a modified and edited version of a topographic map of Hays County that was downloaded off of the ESRI website. Due to the limitations of some web browsers and the fact that our website will be viewed by many people within Hays County, not just other students, we thought it would be best to not use any Flash graphics, Shockwave or the like in the design. Animated graphics, while fun to look at, are generally more confusing to the average user, distract readers from the content, and actually present some limitations. By using HTML, our website
will be able to be included in a web search on Google for example. This is important for our company goal because it is important that anyone looking for our site in Hays County can find it. In addition to that, the average web user is sometimes confused by downloading plug-ins to view animation programs and, as mentioned earlier, we do not want our site to intimidate the average web user. The website was constructed using raw HTML, CSS, and a small amount of JavaScript code. It is totally compatible with Netscape, Mozilla, and Internet Explorer 5.0 and up. The site has not been tested using any other browsers. Because the text is written in HTML code, anyone can highlight information on the page, increasing the usability of the site.

It was initially planned to display our data on the website by utilizing ArcExplorer, a free program provided by ESRI. ArcExplorer would have enabled visitors to the site to do simple buffers and overlays with data layers that we used to create our maps. However, the program proved to be beyond the expertise of the web designer, and found the program impossible to incorporate. The web space was provided by Texas State University and can be found at http://geosites.evans.txstate.edu/~g4427s07-04/index.html.

Conclusions

This project summed up what the current trends of Hays County is experiencing in terms of outward growth into the rural sector. As a group we learned many aspects of working within a small team to reach a specified goal. The time frame gave us just enough time to produce the results we intended to come up with for our client. Given a
more extensive time frame and resource base I would want to conduct citizen interviews and meeting to get the general opinion and knowledge of the current situation. With this information, we could create a project that would reasonably impact the daily lives of the citizens through new day to day information about their county.

References


Cred Cox News Service  

Appendix I: Metadata

Provided here, is a completed sample of the metadata created in this project:

**Keywords**

**Theme:** Hays County Roads

**Description**

**Abstract**

This is a layer representing the road network system in Hays County.

**Purpose**

Sustainable Futures created this road network data to use for in referencing the locations for sustainable agriculture ventures in Hays Co.

**Status of the data**

Complete

*Data update frequency:* None planned

**Time period for which the data is relevant**

*Date and time:* 05/04/2007

*Description:* publication date

**Publication Information**

*Date and time:* 05/04/2007

*Publisher and place:* Texas State University

**Data storage and access information**

*File name:* hay_roads_ND

*Type of data:* vector digital data

*Data processing environment:* Microsoft Windows XP Version 5.1 (Build 2600) Service Pack 2; ESRI ArcCatalog 9.2.1.1332

**Constraints on accessing and using the data**

*Access constraints:* none

*Use constraints:* none
Details about this document
Contents last updated: 20070503 at time 14434500

Who completed this document
Valerie Welch
Texas State University

mailing address:
Texas State University
San Marcos, TX 78666

Standards used to create this document
Standard name: FGDC Content Standards for Digital Geospatial Metadata
Time convention used in this document: local time
Metadata profiles defining additional information
ESRI Metadata Profile: http://www.esri.com/metadata/esriprof80.html

Horizontal coordinate system
Projected coordinate system name: NAD_1983_StatePlane_Texas_Central_FIPS_4203_Feet
Geographic coordinate system name: GCS_North_American_1983

Details
Map Projection Name: Lambert Conformal Conic
Standard Parallel: 30.116667
Standard Parallel: 31.883333
Longitude of Central Meridian: -100.333333
Latitude of Projection Origin: 29.666667
False Easting: 2296583.333333
False Northing: 9842500.000000

Planar Coordinate Information
Planar Distance Units: survey feet
Coordinate Encoding Method: coordinate pair

Coordinate Representation
Abscissa Resolution: 0.000000
Ordinate Resolution: 0.000000
Geodetic Model

*Horizontal Datum Name:* North American Datum of 1983
*Ellipsoid Name:* Geodetic Reference System 80
*Semi-major Axis:* 6378137.000000
*Denominator of Flattening Ratio:* 298.257222

Bounding coordinates

**Horizontal**

**In decimal degrees**

*West:* -98.303213
*East:* -97.702732
*North:* 30.353655
*South:* 29.749679

**In projected or local coordinates**

*Left:* 2940805.460113
*Right:* 3126315.201189
*Top:* 10098273.854792
*Bottom:* 9882444.615975

Lineage

ESRI geoprocessing history

1. **MakeServiceAreaLayer_1**

*Date and time:* 20070422 at time 205040
*Tool location:* C:\Program Files\ArcGIS\ArcToolbox\Toolboxes\Network Analyst Tools.tbx\MakeServiceAreaLayer

**Command issued**

MakeServiceAreaLayer hay_roads_ND "Service Area" Length TRAVEL_FROM 5280 SIMPLE_POLYS NO_MERGE RINGS NO_LINES OVERLAP NO_SPLIT # # ALLOW_UTURNS # TRIM_POLYS "100 Meters" NO_LINES_SOURCE_FIELDS "Service Area"
2. Solve_2
Date and time: 20070422 at time 205127
Tool location: C:\Program Files\ArcGIS\ArcToolbox\Toolboxes\Network Analyst Tools.tbx\Solve
Command issued
Solve "Hays Co. Sustainable Farms and Ranches Service Area (feet)" SKIP "Hays Co. Sustainable Farms and Ranches Service Area (feet)"

3. MakeRouteLayer_1
Date and time: 20070425 at time 105206
Tool location: C:\Program Files\ArcGIS\ArcToolbox\Toolboxes\Network Analyst Tools.tbx\MakeRouteLayer
Command issued
MakeRouteLayer "F:\Network Analysis\shapefiles\hay_roads_ND.nd" Route Length USE_INPUT_ORDER PRESERVE_BOTH NO_TIMEWINDOWS # ALLOW_UTURNS # NO_HIERARCHY # TRUE_LINES_WITH_MEASURES "" Route

4. MakeRouteLayer_2
Date and time: 20070425 at time 105431
Tool location: C:\Program Files\ArcGIS\ArcToolbox\Toolboxes\Network Analyst Tools.tbx\MakeRouteLayer
Command issued
MakeRouteLayer "Hays Co. Roads_ND" "Route " Length USE_INPUT_ORDER PRESERVE_BOTH NO_TIMEWINDOWS # ALLOW_UTURNS # NO_HIERARCHY # TRUE_LINES_WITHOUT_MEASURES "" "Route 

5. MakeRouteLayer_3
Date and time: 20070425 at time 105709
Tool location: C:\Program Files\ArcGIS\ArcToolbox\Toolboxes\Network Analyst Tools.tbx\MakeRouteLayer
Command issued
MakeRouteLayer "Hays Co. Roads_ND" "Route 2" Length USE_INPUT_ORDER PRESERVE_BOTH NO_TIMEWINDOWS # ALLOW_UTURNS # NO_HIERARCHY # TRUE_LINES_WITH_MEASURES "" "Route 2"
Spatial data description

Vector data information

ESRI description

**hay_roads**

*ESRI feature type:* Simple  
*Geometry type:* Polyline  
*Topology:* FALSE  
*Feature count:* 8223  
*Spatial Index:* TRUE  
*Linear referencing:* FALSE

**hay_roads_ND_Junctions**

*ESRI feature type:* Simple  
*Geometry type:* Point  
*Topology:* FALSE  
*Feature count:* 7118  
*Spatial Index:* TRUE  
*Linear referencing:* FALSE

SDTS description

Feature class: SDTS feature type, feature count

```
    hay_roads: String, 8223
    hay_roads_ND_Junctions: Entity point, 7118
```

Details for **hay_roads**

*Type of object:* Feature Class  
*Number of records:* 8223

Details for **hay_roads_ND_Junctions**

*Type of object:* Feature Class  
*Number of records:* 7118
Appendix II: Contribution of each Team Member

Matt Reyes
- Overall supervision of the project
- Prepared progress report and presentation
- Final poster creation editing
- Organized team meetings
- Final report formatting
- Overlay analysis for the final output

Jennifer Bock
- Soils data integration and formatting
- Individual research into the technical definition of Sustainable Agriculture
- Main reference material gatherer
- Land use incorporation with the county
- Input and formatted all information for the metadata created
- Input necessary information to the soils layer data table

Valerie Welch
- Produced road network dataset for network analysis
- Individual research into the incorporation of service area analysis
- Main contact with the Hays County appraisal district and agricultural extension agents
- Input addresses of key points by coordinates
- Edited and formatted the final report
- Created the final presentation

Mark Donica
- Primary web designer and creator
- Responsible for all aesthetic qualities of each report including the final poster and website
- Entry of all necessary lines of code for website
- Created the company logo and subsequent graphics (paragraph separators, tree)
- All subdivision analysis
Appendix C

Pocket Farm Blog
What is a pocket farm?

Posted by Liz under Miscellany, Barn Raisin' (edit this)

Barring what you may know of my actual homestead, if someone mentioned the phrase “pocket farm” to you, what do you envision? How big is it? What do they produce (if anything)? What kind of area do you find a pocket farm in? I named my blog (and by extension, my land) Pocket Farm because we’re located in a valley, and have no desire to farm on a large scale, but to some researchers of sustainable agriculture at Texas State, it may be a genre of farm. They would like to know what your definition would be. Hey, I’m curious, too. Don’t feel shy if someone submits the same definition you were going to…. the more descriptions the better!

For those curious about the barn progress, the above pic [not included in this report] is for you. The ridge and all the rafters are up, thanks to a few strong and very helpful friends. We’re still getting used to it’s presence on our land, but we’re incredibly pleased by the progress we’ve made in a little over three weeks. There is plenty more to be done, but we’re off to a fine start. And of course, don’t forget to check out the One Local Summer blog each Monday for the weekly regional round-ups!

26 Responses to “What is a pocket farm?”

beverly Says:
July 30th, 2007 at 8:55 am e
I’m fairly ignorant about farming, but I recently started my own kitchen garden and hope to grow and raise more and more of our food each year. To my mind, a pocket farm is about self-sustaining…not necessarily a lot of land, but more about good use of the land, enabling the farmers to provide for themselves.

1 .

Stew Says:
July 30th, 2007 at 8:58 am e
Wow. That barn looks fantastic!

2 .

Mary Rex Says:
July 30th, 2007 at 9:12 am e
I think the name Pocket Farm has a nice ring to it, and seems to contain all that you intend. Since visiting for the first time,
I have joined a CSA, and started my own small garden. I am so impressed with all you’ve accomplished on the barn. All that and cooking too! Your pasta meal looks delish. Being farther south in Pennsylvania, we are already inundated with zucchini, and I am missing our fresh peas.

Carole Says:
July 30th, 2007 at 9:13 am e
To me, a “pocket farm” is a small farm that’s meant for just the farmer and the farmer’s family. I guess my concept is that it’s small enough to put in your pocket. Of course, it’s also hard for me to separate the idea of a pocket farm from what I know about your farm specifically.

Liz Says:
July 30th, 2007 at 9:28 am e
Sounds good, so far. I came back in to add something to the post, but then decided to leave it as a comment…. What I found really interesting is that the researchers have found a mention of “pocket farms” in the 40’s! Very cool. And here I thought I just made it up. Thanks, Stew! Alright, back to work for me! :)

bezzie Says:
July 30th, 2007 at 10:34 am e
I’d almost say it’s interchangeable with the word “mini.” Aren’t “pocket” dogs those little fashion dogs people carry around in little purses? Not that your farm has anything in common with a rhinestone collared chihuahua…but it’s a farm, just on a smaller scale. And if you’ve got a Pocket Farm going, then me and my balcony “crops” are a Pocket Lint Farm. ;-)

Wendy Says:
July 30th, 2007 at 11:10 am e
I guess I would define a pocket farm as a farm that was “tucked into” somewhere, like a valley, or in the middle of a non-farming area. I guess “tucked-in” is what the phrase brings mostly to mind, and as a “farm” it would, by definition, be a place where food was grown. Your addendum is funny. Who knew that the phrase had been coined before? Your barn looks amazing!

lucette Says:
July 30th, 2007 at 12:47 pm e
I agree with Carole—a farm for the farmers’ family. I guess I also think of it as being maybe under 20 acres.
I was involved in a barn-roof raising this weekend, if you can call it that. My daughter and son-in-law were replacing the roof of their barn. My part was providing hydration—many drinks of water, soda, lemonade, etc.

8.
*Krista* Says:
July 30th, 2007 at 4:14 pm e
Hmmm, good question. I would have thought something having to do with small size, but to me a farm isn’t a farm without both veggies and a variety of animals, so there’d be that aspect of being at least somewhat self-sustaining (on a small scale, I guess). Certainly not some industrial place. I guess I’d go along with the idea of it supplying food for just the family who lives there (and maybe a few goodies for neighbors or friends).

9.
*cookiecrumb* Says:
July 30th, 2007 at 6:57 pm e
I’d say under five acres. I’m probably way overestimating. But in my 1/16th acre backyard, I’m already growing enough

10.
Pocket Farm » What is a pocket farm? http://www.pocketfarm.com/?p=529
3 of 5 12/12/07 4:02 PM
vegetables for one family, at least this summer. No livestock here (not allowed). In your case, I’m thinking hard work, every day, with some excess to sell. Nice barn! Yipes. And… Bezzie! You funny.

*Red Zinnia* Says:
July 31st, 2007 at 5:38 am e
I think Pocket Farm is a more poetic way to say “mini-farm”. My mind conjures 5-10 acres, a big garden & fruit trees, a few chickens and goats. The barn is coming along great, congratulations. It’s a big project to take on!

11.
*Jamie* Says:
July 31st, 2007 at 3:13 pm e
I like what Bezzie said. For what it’s worth, you and James grow a LOT and actually have a decent chunk of land, so maybe I am another Pocket Lint farmer! :-)

12.
*liz* Says:
July 31st, 2007 at 3:16 pm e
Well now that it’s up it certainly looks plenty big…but what will you do with the upper part…hay storage?!?!? I had no clue what a pocket farm would be, which is why I asked you, and your description of living in a “Pocket” ed area and valley gave me a mental pic
of those spots where fog does not lift when all around you it has early in the morning. quite clear definition I’d say. Thnx for the barn pics

13. 
_Monica_ Says:
July 31st, 2007 at 3:37 pm e
I am not familiar with the term other than the use in your blog title. If it weren’t for your blog I might’ve thought it was much smaller than yours, perhaps even in someone’s backyard in a town/city. Now I might say a couple acres at most, and definitely with a diversity of produce.

14. 
_Ann_ Says:
July 31st, 2007 at 4:03 pm e
Pocket Farm is to me a small, cozy family farm. That is what I pictured when I found your blog. I have a “watch pocket sized farm”. :) Your barn looks wonderful, and BIG.

15. 
_meredith_ Says:
July 31st, 2007 at 4:19 pm e
I think pocket farm is a smallish farm (20 to 75 acres) that is located in an area where it would not be expected. Like Michael Ableman and his urban farm in California.

16. 
_P~_ Says:
July 31st, 2007 at 6:06 pm e
If I may, a few definitions courtesy of: #24 to enclose or confine in or as if in a pocket: (The town was pocketed in a small valley.) - Seems this is the general idea that you had in naming your farm. Very applicable for sure. #19 relatively small; smaller than usual: (a pocket war; a pocket country.) - This is another good meaning for pocket that would no doubt make sense in this context. #7 any isolated group, area, element, etc., contrasted, as in status or condition, with a surrounding element or group: (pockets of resistance; a pocket of poverty in the central city.) - This one, however, is the meaning that I get from it. When I read your blog, it’s like you have a small “pocket” of peace here on earth. You have built and are building a “pocket” of resistance to the world and what is the norm. I love to read about your Pocket Farm, and aspire to make my suburban place a “Pocket Home”. By the way, The barn looks great! P~

_P~_ Says:
July 31st, 2007 at 6:09 pm e
Oops, gotta put those close tags in or the link don’t work! courtesy of Dictionary.com

18. 
_Vonne_ Says:
July 31st, 2007 at 8:56 pm e
My definition of pocket farm is having enough land for sustainable living. We’re doing that on two acres, but I know it can be done on less.

19. Maryann Says:
   August 1st, 2007 at 9:36 am
   I love what you are doing. I will continue to stay tuned and wish you well. I’m also linking you to my cooking and gathering site. Many blessings!
   www.findingladolcevita.blogspot.com

20. maggie Says:
   August 2nd, 2007 at 2:05 am
   Such great definitions. And the barn is looking great! It may be too good for goats (mine would think they had died and gone to caprine heaven) - you may need a cow!!! :)

21. Liz Says:
   August 2nd, 2007 at 7:30 am
   Thanks for all the definitions! I’m sure this will be helpful to Sally & Pam at Texas State, and it was really interesting to see what you all thought about my place. P~., I’m still chewing on the “pocket of resistance” thing. :)
   liz ~ That is room for a hayloft plus storage upstairs.
   Maggie ~ I know… totally overkill for goats. But we needed more space, and the sailboat and lumber is going to take up 1/3 of the building, so we figured instead of building lots of small sheds to fit everything, why not go big? Compared to the typical New England barn, it’s actually on the small side.

22. maggie Says:
   August 4th, 2007 at 8:16 am
   Oh! I thought of another one!
   That farm’s so cute, I want to pick it up and put it in my pocket :)

23. Dawn Says:
   August 4th, 2007 at 4:33 pm
   I came just to see the barn. You are doing a great job. I think of a pocket farm as a small to medium size acreage (3 to 20 acres) that has a garden, perhaps a few animals, and where the people are using the space to have their own food or to make a little “pocket money” from eggs or vegetables at a market or honey from hives. I would say we have a pocket farm, we have
a garden, pets, donkeys (which are pets for mowing the hill), and have the start of a chicken coop so hopefully will have laying hens soon. We work at the families farm, so have a couple cows there and have beef from there. We do chickens and turkeys with the family, so we don’t have to do that here either, but we have the meat. We have eggs currently with the family and milk also. They have bigger properties, but we do the sustaining thing together and separately.

24.  
Stephanie Says:
August 5th, 2007 at 11:40 pm e

25.  
Pocket Farm » What is a pocket farm? http://www.pocketfarm.com/?p=529
5 of 5 12/12/07 4:02 PM
WoW! That barn looks fantastic, and so much progress in just three weeks! Congratulations!
Greg Says:
September 27th, 2007 at 7:05 am e
That is a great looking barn.

I come from a long line of small farm farmers in southern Michigan. Despite the fact that I now live in Nort East Ohio I still embrace my heritage (Polish) and my grandpa’s small farm. I do wish that I could farm, but time and career along with family seem to take the time that I would have. I do still love the antique tractors, although they are mainly toys at this point. Their jobs done it is time to enjoy resting in the barn coming out occasionally for the ride with the kids, some mild work, and shows.

26.  
Leave a Reply
Logged in as Liz. Logout »
Submit Comment
Archived Entry
Post Date :
Monday, Jul 30th, 2007 at 8:41 am
Category :
Miscelllany and Barn Raisin'
Do More :
You can leave a response, or trackback from your own site. Edit this entry.
Return to Home Page
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Appendix D

Newspaper Analysis
WIMBERLEY VIEW
(Note: a list of abbreviations appears at bottom)

Development (Residential, School, Commercial)

- Volume 28, No. 89 Wednesday, November 5, 2003, p1 “Attorneys Battle Over Room 180 in Justice Center” Mary Elizabeth Davis. Other county business: interlocal agreement between county and San Marcos for subdivision regulations within ETJ.
- Volume 28, No. 91 Wednesday, November 12, 2003, p3 “New Waste Facility Opens” – 2nd solid waste facility in Hays County between Driftwood and Dripping Springs.
- Volume 28, No. 91 Wednesday, November 12, 2003, p10 photos and captions, new business ribbon cuttings.
- Volume 28, No. 92 Saturday, November 15, 2003, p1 “City Looks Into Annexing Methodist Church Property” Mary Elizabeth Davis – 2.75 acre lot.
- Volume 28, No. 94 Saturday, November 22, 2003, p1, 16 “County Tables Condo Conversation Tuesday” Mary Elizabeth Davis – regarding Papalote Homes condominium development.
- Volume 28, No. 94 Saturday, November 22, 2003, p4 “Menagerie Opening Delayed” – due to city council’s tabling of converting Center Street properties to a business corridor.
- Volume 28, No. 94 Saturday, November 22, 2003, p6 photo and caption, ribbon cutting for new business.
- Volume 28, No. 94 Saturday, November 22, 2003, p8 photo and caption, ribbon cutting for insurance agency.
- Volume 28, No. 101 Wednesday, December 17, 2003, p1 “Annexation Hearing Held” Mary Elizabeth Davis – United Methodist Church lot, 2.75 acres.
- Volume 28, No. 102 Saturday, December 20, 2003, p1, 9 “Molenaar Asks for Attorney General’s Opinion on ETJs” Mary Elizabeth Davis – opinion on the constitutionality of two government codes. Commissioners did not approve of all. Constitutionality of Wimberley Debate.
- Volume 29, No. 2 Wednesday, January 7, 2004, p4 “Letters to the Editor” – Carroll Wiley concerned about Dance hall and bar to be opened on Ranch Road 12. Wiley feels it will make RR 12 a more dangerous road.
- Volume 29, No. 3 Saturday, January 10, 2004, pp1, 5 “Players Announce New Home” – Theater will be moved to center of Village in renovated property.
- Volume 29, No. 6 Wednesday, January 21, 2004, p 4 “Letters to the Editor” – Brad Giddiens defends Dance Hall on RR12.
- Volume 29, No. 8 Wednesday, January 28, 2004, pp1, 5 “Committee Protests Dance Hall on RR12” Mary Elizabeth Davis – Wiley forms “Keep Ranch Road 12 Safe Committee,” residents do not agree on issue.
Volume 29, No. 9 Saturday, January 31, 2004, pp 1, 2 “Public Hearing Planned on HC Subdivision Rules” Mary Elizabeth Davis – regarding Heatherwood. Other county business: commissioners agreed to an interlocal agreement with Dripping Springs and Austin regarding subdivision regulations in the ETJ.

Volume 29, No. 9 Saturday, January 31, 2004, p1 “Woodcreek Advertising For Bids to Build New City Hall” Charles McClure – planning to build a new structure near the city’s water tower.

Volume 29, No. 11 Saturday, February 7, 2004, pp 1, 8 “Attorney Hired to Assist With Proposed Rules” Mary Elizabeth Davis – (Heatherwood) multi-unit developments

Volume 29, No. 11 Saturday, February 7, 2004, pp1, 4 “Judge Adjourns as Carter Speaks” Mary Elizabeth Davis – when she brought up Heatherwood without putting it on the agenda first.

Volume 29, No. 11 Saturday, February 7, 2004, p4 “Letters to the Editor” – Jim Powers justifies adjourning meeting, Mike Wenk explains Open Meetings Act regulations, Bruce Renfro commends Carter, Dorothy Blue criticizes Judge’s actions.

Volume 29, No. 13 Saturday, February 14, 2004, pp 1, 5 “Developer Threatens County With Lawsuit” Mary Elizabeth Davis – Matt Duffy, Heatherwood, lawsuit unless county complies with his request for on-site sewer system permit. Other county business: additions to county road and maintenance system.

Volume 29, No. 13 Saturday, February 14, 2004, pp 1, 5 “Carter Criticizes County Judge for Adjourning During Presentation” Mary Elizabeth Davis – the presentation referenced Heatherwood, although the topic was not on the agenda.

Volume 29, No. 14 Wednesday February 18, 2004, pp1, 5 “Annual Home Show Returns” Mary Elizabeth Davis – Builder’s Fair and Home Show to present upcoming homes. See also full-page advertisements on pages 7, 8, 9, 10.

Volume 29, No. 15 Saturday, February 21, 2004, pp1, 5 “School Bond Election Recommended” Mary Elizabeth Davis – to build new schools to accommodate population growth.

Volume 29, No. 15 Saturday, February 21, 2004, p4 “Players Ink Papers for New Theatre; Thank Dunn for Gift” – Wimberley Players close their real estate deal to purchase property, and Dunn donates adjacent 0.163 acre for parking.

Volume 29, No. 16 Wednesday, February 25, 2004, p15 “Czichos Seeks City Fee Update” Mary Elizabeth Davis – fees for building permits and zoning requests not yet approved.

Volume 29, No. 17 Saturday, February 28, 2004, pp1, 7 “ISD Seeks New Sites for Schools” Mary Elizabeth Davis – WISD propose bond packages but have no definite site planned for new schools. They need 80 – 90 acres for the High School and 20 acres for the Elementary School, but Wimberley topography is hilly.


Volume 29, No. 18 Wednesday, March 3, 2004, p3 “Players to Show Off Future Home” – new location of Wimberley Theater
• Volume 29, No. 18 Wednesday, March 3, 2004, pp1, 8 “HC Civic Center Hopes to
Turn Corner” Mary Elizabeth Davis – Other county business: court turns down plat
for resubdivision in Hill Country Ranches; “Commissioners included the City of San
Marcos into the County’s Texas Parks and Wildlife Department grant application for
the Five-Mile Dam Park project.”
• Volume 29, No. 20 Wednesday, March 10, 2004, pp1, 5 “FBC, City Negotiations
Continue” Mary Elizabeth Davis – First Baptist Church proposes to buy portion of
Blue Hole property for possible sanctuary, parking space, and buffer to drainage area.
• Volume 29, No. 21 Saturday, March 13, 2004, pp1, 5 “ISD Asks for $45.6 Million in
Bonds” Mary Elizabeth Davis – for building new schools.
• Volume 29, No. 21 Saturday, March 13, 2004, pp1, 14 “City Ordered To Pay $500
To Clear Community Center Title” Charles McClure – 1.856 acre strip of property of
which Wimberley is in charge. Money pays for “reversionary interest.”
• Volume 29, No. 22 Wednesday March 17, 2004, p1 “WC Breaks Ground on City
Hall” – construction begins in Woodcreek.
• Volume 29, No. 24 Wednesday, March 24, 2004 p1, 5 “Village Council Accepts
Land for Community Center” Mary Elizabeth Davis – 4.37 acres donated by
Wimberley Senior Citizens Activities, Inc. They will construct community center
and nature area on RR12.
• Volume 29, No. 25 Saturday, March 27, 2004, pp1, 5 “Developer Dispute Lands
Hays County in Two New Lawsuits” Mary Elizabeth Davis – Hays County hires
attorney for Heatherwood suit.
• Volume 29, No. 27 Saturday, April 3, 2004 p1 “WISD Publishes Brochure About
$45.6 Million Bond Package” Mary Elizabeth Davis – regarding bond for new
schools.
• Volume 29, No. 27 Saturday, April 3, 2004 p4 photo and caption, Kendree Custom
Homes, LLC ribbon cutting.
• Volume 29, no 28 Saturday, April 10, 2004 p4 “Strauss Discusses the Future of
WISD” Marian Running – info and statistics regarding student population growth and
needed facilities.
• Volume 29, no 28 Saturday, April 10, 2004 p4 “Reporters Take Tour of Wimberley
School Facilities” Mary Elizabeth Davis – more information, same as above.
• Volume 29, no 28 Saturday, April 10, 2004 p1, 6 “WSCAI Signs Deed Over to City”
– Regarding land donated for community center and nature area.
• Volume 29, No. 30 Saturday, April 17, 2004 p1, 5 “Grant to Help Pay For WC City
Hall” Charles McClure – Woodcreek provided with $24,000 grant from PEC.
• Volume 29, No. 30 Saturday, April 17, 2004 p1, 7 “WISD Bond Brochures to Be
Sent to Residents”
• Volume 29, No. 33 Saturday, April 24, 2004 p1, 7 “HC Passes on TAC Resolution”
Mary Elizabeth Davis – other county business: resolution with Buda about Cabela’s
Draft Definitive Agreement.
• Volume 29, No. 34 Wednesday, April 28, 2004 p1, 4 “Bond’s Demographics Under
Fire” Mary Elizabeth Davis – regarding money needed for new schools. Residents
complain about the raising of taxes, and disagree that the population will grow as
much as the demographic study suggests.
- Volume 29 No. 35 Saturday, April 31, 2004 p1, 4 “WISD Holds Second Bond Forum” Mary Elizabeth Davis.
- Volume 29 No. 35 Saturday, April 31, 2004 pp1, 5 “County Dangles Big Carrot in Hopes of Luring Cabela’s” Mary Elizabeth Davis – approximately $50 mil in incentives. 126 acre site.
- Volume 29, No. 37 Saturday, May 8, 2004 p4, 7 “Letters to the Editor” more residents concerned about WISD bond.
- Volume 29, No. 38 Wednesday, May 12, 2004 pp1, 5 “Council Strikes Deal Wth [sic] HC to Repair Spoke Hollow Entrance” Mary Elizabeth Davis – Other city business: executive session, make an offer to a counter offer for a proposal to sell a portion of the Blue Hole property to Wimberley Baptist Church.
- Volume 29, No. 38 Wednesday, May 12, 2004 pp1, 6 “County Reviews Incentives to Bring Retail Store to Buda” Mary Elizabeth Davis – if agreed, the store will not have to pay property taxes and some sales taxes for 2 decades.
- Volume 29, No. 38 Wednesday, May 12, 2004 p4 “Letters to the Editor” – more residents’ opinions on school bond issue.
- Volume 29, No. 39 Saturday, May 15, 2004 p10 “HC Approves Financial Plan to Bring Retail Store to Buda”
- Volume 29, No. 40 Wednesday May 19, 2004 pp1, 5 “Voters Reject WISD Bonds” Mary Elizabeth Davis – FNAC (Facilities Needs Assessment Committee) will develop new offer.
- Volume 29, No. 41 Saturday, May 22, 2004 pp1, 5 “WISD Feels Effect of Bond Failure” Mary Elizabeth Davis – board tightens budget to pay for portables.
- Volume 29, No. 42 Wednesday, May 26, 2004 p6 “City Accepts Bid For ER Lane Expansion” Mary Elizabeth Davis – other city business: council approved a conditional use permit for a proposed office and custom home project on FM 3237.
- Volume 29, No. 43 Saturday, May 29, 2004 p4 “Letters to the Editor” – residents’ opinions regarding WISD bond decision.
- Volume 29, No. 45 Saturday, June 5, 2004 pp1, 7 “WISD Budget Talks Resume This Saturday” Mary Elizabeth Davis – board members discuss possible ways to save money.
- Volume 29, No. 45 Saturday, June 5, 2004 p4 “Letters to the Editor” – resident’s opinion on WISD bond failure.


- Volume 29, No. 46 Wednesday, June 9, 2004 p1 “WPOA Seeks Vote to Unify Rules”
  - Woodcreek Property Owners Association developed a unified declaration of
    covenants, conditions and restrictions and announce public forum to clarify codes.
- Volume 29, No. 46 Wednesday, June 9, 2004 pp1, 5 “Community Center Turns Dirt
  Thursday” – groundbreaking ceremony for community center in Wimberley. Estimated to be 10,560 to 13,172 square feet.
- Volume 29, No. 46 Wednesday, June 9, 2004 p4 “WPOA Covenants Not Right for
  Eagle Rock” Charles McClure – editor displeased with unified covenants.
- Volume 29, No. 48 Wednesday, June 16, 2004 pp1, 5 “WPOA Forum Airs Proposed
  Rules” Charles Wood – information, opposition, voting, etc.
- Volume 29, No. 48 Wednesday, June 16, 2004 pp1,5 “Community Center Turns Dirt
  In Thursday Ceremony” Mary Elizabeth Davis – residents meet for groundbreaking.
- Volume 29, No. 48 Wednesday, June 16, 2004 pp1, 7 “HC Approves Final Plat,
  Septic Permit For Heatherwood” Mary Elizabeth Davis – Duffy drops one lawsuit,
  retains “Open Meetings Act” lawsuit. Neighbors upset, and worry about quality of
  life.
- Volume 29, No. 50 Wednesday, June 23, 2004 p4 “Letters to the Editor” – resident
  upset at Village of Wimberley for ordinances and bureaucratic practices.
  Dripping Springs consider approval of building expansion, accept bids for irrigation
  system construction at Sports park.
- Volume 29, No. 53 Wednesday, July 7, 2004 p4 “Letters to the Editor”—resident’s
  opinion on WISD bond failure.
- Volume 29, No. 55 Saturday, July 10, 2004 p1 “Hays County Commissioners
  Approve Annexation” Mary Elizabeth Davis – allow San Marcos to annex
  Centerpoint Road and Hunter Road property. Susie Carter voted against the
  annexation because she thinks it is illegal.
- Volume 29, No. 59 Saturday, July 24, 2004 pp1, 7 “FBC Votes to Look Outside
  Village Limits” Charles McClure – Baptist Church feels mislead about Blue Hole
  property issue.
- Volume 29, No. 59 Saturday, July 24, 2004 p4 “First Baptist Letter Expresses
  Frustrations” – Wimberley View prints letter found through Open Records request.
- Volume 29, No. 60 Wednesday, July 28, 2004 p4 “What Has Happened To Our Little
  Town” Frank Austin – guest column. Resident upset at abundance of ordinances.
  Says, “Our City government is very heavy handed and empowered to regulate and
  control every piece of land, new construction, . . .” etc.
- Volume 29, No. 62 Wednesday, August 4, 2004 pp1, 5 “City Seeks Remedy To
  Center Title” Mary Elizabeth Davis – Land donated to city from WSCAI for
  community center under reversionary clause. City has spent $24,000 in legal fees.
- Volume 29, No. 62 Wednesday, August 4, 2004 p4 “Mayor Responds To Austin’s
  Column” Steve Klepfer – responding to previous week’s column, defends the city.
- Volume 29, No. 62 Wednesday, August 4, 2004 p4 “Letters to the Editor” – short
  letter regarding Baptist Church; long letter in which resident defends growth of city.
• Volume 29, No. 63 Saturday, August 7, 2004 p4 “Knies Airs Response To Austin” Martha Knies—guest column, response to previous guest column. Knies defends ordinances.
• Volume 29, No. 64 Wednesday, August 11, 2004 p4 “Harrison Responds To Criticisms” Stephen Harrison – guest column, another resident defends the city.
• Volume 29, No. 65 Saturday, August 14, 2004 p1, 4 “Commissioner Proposes $30 Million In COs For New Facility” Mary Elizabeth Davis – facilities committee wants to put all departments in one building. Judge Powers does not support the proposition.
• Volume 29, No. 66 Wednesday, August 18, 2004 p1, 7 “HC Takes NO Action To Review Subdivision Rules” Mary Elizabeth Davis – Susie Carter requests that city hire attorneys to review subdivision rules. Commissioners take no action.
• Volume 29, No. 66 Wednesday, August 18, 2004 p4 “Letters to the Editor” – Austin replies to Klepfer, Knies responses to his guest column.
• Volume 29, No. 67 Saturday, August 21, 2004 p1, 9 “Charter School Begins Searching For Architect” Mary Elizabeth Davis – Katherine Anne Porter School plans to renovate; hopes to get $500,000 loan from United State Department of Agriculture Rural Development.
• Volume 29, No. 69 Saturday, August 28, 2004 p1 “City Offers $85K To Settle Community Center Dispute” Mary Elizabeth Davis – Offered to use educational trust funds in exchange for a reversionary clause for 60 ft of community center property.
• Volume 29, No. 71 Saturday, September 4, 2004 pp1, 5 “No Action Taken On Alleged Open Meetings Violation” Mary Elizabeth Davis
• Volume 29, No. 76 Wednesday, September 22, 2004 pp1, 4 “City Okays Settlement ‘Agreement’” Mary Elizabeth Davis – may end the dispute over the reversionary clause regarding 1.85 acres to be used for community center.
• Volume 29, No. 76 Wednesday, September 22, 2004 pp1, 9 “HC Offers Open Meetings Suit Settlement” Mary Elizabeth Davis – regarding Heatherwood developer’s suit. County’s defense attorney asked to step down due to allegations of leaks, and county voted to offer settlement.
• Volume 29, No. 76 Wednesday, September 22, 2004 p3 “HC Looks Into Giving Up Property, Sales Tax Swap” Mary Elizabeth Davis – Kyle, 455.4 acres, possible TIF district for developers such as Home Depot and Wal-Mart.
• Volume 29, No. 77 Saturday, September 25, 2004 p1 “Hays County Increases Tax Rate” Mary Elizabeth Davis – other county business: Commissioners approved preliminary plans for Hill Country Estates; Kelly’s Country Subdivision granted variance.
• Volume 29, No. 77 Saturday, September 25, 2004 pp1, 4 “WISD Holds Bond Forum” Mary Elizabeth Davis – information regarding population growth and possible solutions.

Historic/Museum
• Volume 28, No. 88 Saturday, November 1, 2003, p4 “Old Hays County Jail Awarded $25,000 Grant” – for preservation of landmark.
• Volume 28, No. 95 Wednesday, November 26, 2003, p1 “County Donates $5K for Veterans Memorial” Mary Elizabeth Davis – in San Marcos.

• Volume 29, No. 47 Saturday, June 12, 2004 p3 “WIC Gives Fourth Graders Heritage Lesson” – fourth graders learn about history of Wimberley at historical Winters-Wimberley House.

Parks and Recreation
• Volume 28, No. 27 Wednesday, April 2, 2003, pp1, 3 “HC Searching for Parks Plan Administrator” – Susie Carter votes ‘no’; and other county business.


• Volume 28, No. 94 Saturday, November 22, 2003, p10 “Westcave Preserve to Hold Pioneer Day Today” – 30-acre preserve owned by LCRA

• Volume 28, No. 101 Wednesday, December 17, 2003, pp1, 5 “City Seeks to Buy Blue Hole” Mary Elizabeth Davis – 120-acres, minimum $2.5 million needs to be raised.

• Volume 28, No. 103 Wednesday, December 24, 2003, pp1, 5 “Blue Hole Town Hall on Jan. 29” Mary Elizabeth Davis – Mayor signs option contract paving the way for the city to purchase Blue Hole. Resident, Way, will purchase the property and hold it until the city raises the money for it.

• Volume 28, No. 103 Wednesday, December 24, 2003, p6 “Westcave to Hold Bird Count, Jan. 3”

• Volume 29, No. 6 Wednesday, January 21, 2004 pp1, 5 “Way, City Discuss Blue Hole” Mary Elizabeth Davis – city will purchase property from Peter Way after two years and reimburse him for expenses.

• Volume 29, No. 6 Wednesday, January 21, 2004 p4 “Blue Hole May Determine Our Future” Charles McClure – Editorial opinion on the Blue Hole property–is thankful it will not be turned into residential property.

• Volume 29, No. 7 Saturday, January 24, 2004 pp1, 12 “HC Provides $700k for Blue Hole” Mary Elizabeth Davis

• Volume 29, No. 8 Wednesday, January 28, 2004 p1 “Town Hall to Discuss Blue Hole” Mary Elizabeth Davis – announcement of town meeting.

• Volume 29, No. 10 Wednesday, February 4, 2004 pp1, 8 “Blue Hole Draws Raves From Citizens” Mary Elizabeth Davis – 100 residents show up for town hall meeting.

• Volume 29, No. 14 Wednesday February 18, 2004 pp1, 5 “City Delays Fund Raising Contract” Mary Elizabeth Davis – Matt Mannis requested the delay the contract with “The Trust for Public Land . . . for its assistance in raising funds for the city’s $4.3 million purchase and development of Blue Hole,” because not all council members were present at the meeting, and because Mannis has some questions about the money.

• Volume 29, No. 16 Wednesday, February 25, 2004 p1,5 “Mayor Admonishes Councilman” Mary Elizabeth Davis – city council agreed to contract with TPL for Blue Hole. Mannis concerned city will lose money if TPL fails to follow contract.

• Volume 29, No. 16 Wednesday, February 25, 2004 p4 “TPL Will Be Good Blue Hole Partner” Charles McClure, editorial view – TPL working with Wimberley on Blue
Hole contract. TPL has worked with & helped “to save important aquifer recharge zones . . . is working with USDA Forest Service, Texas Forest Service and Gov. Rick Perry . . . for protecting forestland in Texas.”

• Volume 29, No. 20 Wednesday, March 10, 2004 pp1, 2 “St. Stephen’s Nature Trail Dedication is on Tap Sunday” – trail winds for over a mile.

• Volume 29, No. 22 Wednesday March 17, 2004 p4 photo and caption, “St. Stephens Dedicates New Trail”

• Volume 29, No. 24 Wednesday, March 24, 2004 pp1, 5 “Blue Hole Fund Raising Group Formed” Mary Elizabeth Davis – to assist Trust for Public Land.

• Volume 29, No. 25 Saturday, March 27, 2004 pp1, 5 “Theme Park Seeking to Purchase 7A” Mary Elizabeth Davis – Tex-Scot Enterprises of Arlington wants to purchase 24 of 100 acres of 7A Ranch and Pioneer town to “restore . . . it to its original use.”

• Volume 29, No. 32 Wednesday, April 21, 2004 pp1, 5 “Blue Holed Closed for Summer” Mary Elizabeth Davis – city decided not to lease it for the summer due to liability concerns.

• Volume 29, No. 42 Wednesday, May 26, 2004 pp1, 5 “Historic Swimming Hole to Reopen” Charles McClure – Eagle Rock swimming hole has been closed since the 80s. New owners changed the name to Cypress Creek Falls Swimming Hole. Some residents opposed, but owners received approval from Texas Parks and Wildlife and TCEQ.

• Volume 29, No. 43 Saturday, May 29, 2004 p1, 5 “County commits $150,000 In Bond Money To Aid Camp” Mary Elizabeth Davis – money from parks and open spaces bond will go to renovate Camp Ben McCulloch.

• Volume 29, No. 44 Wednesday, June 2, 2004 p8 “Hill Country Fun, All That’s Missing Is You” Gina McClure, Holly Media Group – Summer fun section of paper added to give readers suggestions on Texas summer activities.

• Volume 29, No. 44 Wednesday, June 2, 2004 p8,9 “How to Beat Hill Country Heat” Kathy Scott and Gina McClure – suggests swimming spots such as Cypress Falls, Blanco River, 7-A Ranch, Dripping Springs pool, etc.

• Volume 29, No. 45 Saturday, June 5, 2004 p1. photo and caption—residents swimming at Cypress Creek Falls.

• Volume 29, No. 46 Wednesday, June 9, 2004 p1,5 “Graddy Asks for Update On Sale of Tract on Blue Hole Property to FBC” Mary Elizabeth Davis – concerned about amount of time (one month) taken to make decision. Property owner, Peter Way, not available to take part in negotiations. Other city business: council members approved the second reading of an amendment to a zoning ordinance.

• Volume 29, No. 57 Saturday, July 17, 2004 p4 “State Parks Offer Alternatives As Gas Prices Soar” Jeff Wentworth—information on Texas Parks.

• Volume 29, No. 58 Wednesday, July 21, 2004 p1,6 “Council Reviews Funding Efforts” Mary Elizabeth Davis – Wimberley City Council updated on plan for funding Blue Hole Project.

• Volume 29, No. 62 Wednesday, August 4, 2004 p10 “HC Offers $250,000 For Buda Park” Mary Elizabeth Davis – sportsplex
Volume 29, No. 64 Wednesday, August 11, 2004 p7 “Vetter Park Dedication On Tap for Wednesday, Aug. 18” – invitation to dedication of Randall Wade Vetter park.

Volume 29, No. 66 Wednesday, August 18, 2004 p1,5 “Blue Hole To Receive $1.9 Million Grant” – Director of Texas Parks and Wildlife signs grant letter. Wimberley Village raised $3 mil in 8 months. Klepfer welcomes more donations.

Volume 29, No. 67 Saturday, August 21, 2004 p3 “HC Ceremony Officially Dedicates Vetter Park” Mary Elizabeth Davis – 17 acres adjacent Dudley Johnson Park. Park contains trails that are American Disabilities approved.

Volume 29, No. 69 Saturday, August 28, 2004 p1, 5 “It’s Official: Blue Hole Grant Ok’d” – Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission grants $1,908,500.00.

Volume 29, No. 77 Saturday, September 25, 2004 p1,9 “HC Commits $222,500 Toward Kyle Park Plan” Mary Elizabeth Davis – plan to bring trails, picnic tables, volleyball and Frisbee golf to existing park.

Agriculture

Volume 28, No. 48 Saturday May 14, 2003, p6. “Chickens Can Be Cool” – photo and caption regarding Library’s reading program. Chicken owner is Jesse Huth who also has Llamas.


Volume 28, No. 101 Wednesday, December 17, 2003, p9 “Letters to the Editor” – Lester and Holly Meier thank community for support of July 4th rodeo.

Volume 29, No. 3 Saturday, January 10, 2004 p4 “Local Quarter Horse Runs Well” – information about quarter horse racing and local horse owners.

Volume 29, No. 4, Wednesday, January 14, 2004 p 7 “4-H Presents Awards” – photos and captions depicting the winners of bronze/silver/gold star awards.

Volume 29, No. 6 Wednesday, January 21, 2004 p1, 5 “County Livestock Show on Tap Through Saturday” Mary Elizabeth Davis – photo, caption, and story. 4-H and FFA will take projects to the show and auction. “Wimberley participants made a total of $23,197 from last year’s auction.”

Volume 29, No. 6 Wednesday, January 21, 2004 p 6 “4-Hers Cook Up a Storm” Debbie Cleveland – kids learn to cook.

Volume 29, No. 8 Wednesday, January 28, 2004 p1,4 “Wimberley Dominates Stock Show” Mary Elizabeth Davis – two students capture top honors in cattle show. It is the first year that the show features cattle.

Volume 29, No. 8 Wednesday, January 28, 2004 p4 “Wimberley Youths Win Horse Show” – at Livestock Show.

Volume 29, No. 9 Saturday, January 31, 2004 p4 “Letters to the Editor” – Nita Leinneweber gives thanks for community support of stockshow.
• Volume 29, No. 16 Wednesday, February 25, 2004 p3 “VFW’s New Rodeo Producer Tips Hat” Mary Elizabeth Davis – Lance Livingston plans Fourth of July Rodeo

• Volume 29, No. 20 Wednesday, March 10, 2004 p3 “Resident’s Documentary On Cowboy Life Wins” Mary Elizabeth Davis – feature story. “Kay’s video focuses on the cowboy independent lifestyle and the hardships that go along with it.” features ranchers who are struggling.

• Volume 29, No. 24 Wednesday, March 24, 2004 p4 “Wimberley Student Is Ambassador to Horse Show Circuit” – after purchase of stallion.

• Volume 29, No. 26 Wednesday, March 31, 2004 p3 “Local Man Named Extention [author’s mistake] Agent” Mary Elizabeth Davis – Bryan Davis approved as new county extension agent of agriculture and natural resources. Other county business: hearing scheduled for proposed reconstruction of Owl Hollow Road.


• Volume 29, No. 41 Saturday, May 22, 2004 p3 “FFA Honors Its Own At Annual Banquet” Mary Elizabeth Davis – ends the year of activities for FFA students, thank their supporters, receive awards.

• Volume 29, No. 43 Saturday, May 29, 2004 p1,5 “Revamped Rodeo Evolves; Tickets to Increase June 1” Mary Elizabeth Davis – one of the oldest outdoor rodeos in Texas.

• Volume 29, No. 49 Saturday, June 19, 2004 p8 photo and caption—youth receive horse awards

• Volume 29, No. 51 Saturday, June 26, 2004 p1 “VFW Rodeo Saddles Up July 2-4 At Arena” information regarding events and prices.

• Volume 29, No. 52 Wednesday, June 30, 2004 p1 “59th Annual VFW Rodeo Returns” – information regarding events.

• Volume 29, No. 53 Wednesday, July 7, 2004 p1,5 “Annual Rodeo Draws Large Crowds” – rodeo news, and award info.


• Volume 29, No. 53 Wednesday, July 7, 2004 p4 “Rodeo Takes Us Back to the Basics?” Charles McClure—editorial view. Editor reminds readers of his farming background, remembers “the good ol’ days”.

• Volume 29, No. 56 Wednesday, July 14, 2004 p7 “Local Ag Student Prepares for Livestock Show With First Heifer” Mary Elizabeth Davis—Jessica Brumfield bought the heifer with money she won from calf scrambles. She’s already sold a steer, but said, “I wanted to show a heifer. You get to keep them and they don’t go to slaughter.”

• Volume 29, No. 59 Saturday, July 24, 2004 p3 “Locals Shine At District Horse Show” Richard Parrish – awards announced.

• Volume 29, No. 70 Wednesday, September 1, 2004 p3 “WIC Hosts Ranch Exhibit at Winters-Wimberley House” Mary Elizabeth Davis – feature story regarding exhibit. Exhibit is called “Ranching in the Wimberley Valley: The Romance and the Reality.” Photos of old ranches and what they look like today.

• Volume 29, No. 70 Wednesday, September 1, 2004 p6 “County Dog Enthusiast Win Big at State 4-H Show”
• Volume 29, No. 71 Saturday, September 4, 2004 p8 photo and caption—“FFA Excels” – Local FFA students win awards at State Convention.
• Volume 29, No. 75 Saturday, September 18, 2004 p3 “WIC Exhibit Features Burnett Ranch” Maggie Baines—feature story, Ranch originally 7,500 acres from Fischer area to FM2325. Twins took over the ranch. Agriculture included raising cattle, goats, sheep, and maintaining an apple and peach orchard.

Community Education/Survey/ “The Project”
• Volume 28, No. 27 Wednesday, April 2, 2003, p1,5 “Residents Learn About HTGCD” – meeting provides information on Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District and the Texas Cooperative Extension of Hays County. Residents must vote whether to continue to conservation district, otherwise it will be taken over by the State.
• Volume 28, No. 53 Wednesday, July 2, 2003, p1,5 “Regional Plan Begins to Take Shape” Charles Wood– planning process for northern Hays County and Western Travis County. Three tiers: Executive Committee, Core Committee, and Stakeholders Committee. “City of Austin has purchased Onion Creek area land from Orr for conservation easements and will probably purchase more.”
• Volume 28, No. 71 Wednesday, September 3, 2003, p7 “Stakeholder’s Meeting Sept. 8” – announcement of meeting in Dripping Springs.
• Volume 28, No. 93 Wednesday, November 19, 2003, p1, 8 “Planning Session on Tap in Drippin’” – The Project will host a lecture on Water Quality issues. Goal is a set of water quality standards for developments receiving water from the LCRA pipeline.
• Volume 29, No. 9 Saturday, January 31, 2004 p8 “Residents Invited to Forum on Community Issues” Richard Parrish – conducted as a statewide effort of Texas Cooperative Extension, to identify concerns.
• Volume 29, No. 39 Saturday, May 15, 2004 p1, 5 “ECT Survey Presented to County” Mary Elizabeth Davis – Envision Central Texas, residents consider water availability, transportation needs, development, housing, quality of life, cost of living and air quality as being of prime importance.
• Volume 29, No. 41 Saturday, May 22, 2004 p4 “LCRA Delays Hamilton Pool Road Project, Will Prepare Service Plan for Western Travis County” – give regional planners until December to develop a plan.
• Volume 29, No. 41 Saturday, May 22, 2004 p9 “Resident Questions Regional Planning Survey” Mary Elizabeth Davis – Jim Green questions ECT survey intentions. He says, “No one believes these small groups of activists represent millions of Central Texans who didn’t attend even a single meeting.”
• Volume 29, No. 71 Saturday, September 4, 2004 p4 “Envision Central Texas Names New Chair” – information regarding ECT. “The non-profit organization is composed of concerned citizens representing the business community, environmental organizations, social development organizations, neighborhoods and policy-makers . . .”

Water/Waterline Development
• Volume 28, No. 27 Wednesday, April 2, 2003, p4 “Letters to the Editor” – Lewis Bullard requests that voters “pass a resolution in support of the” HTGCD.
• Volume 28, 88 Saturday, November 1, 2003, p4 “GBRA To Study Impact of EAA Two-Tier System” – Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority and San Antonio Water System engineering firm

• Volume 29, No. 12 Wednesday, February 11, 2004 p1,6 “Water Tower has 30-Day Reprieve” Charles McClure – Woodcreek citizens do not want the 168-foot tower, but construction has already begun.

• Volume 29, No. 12 Wednesday, February 11, 2004 p7 “HTGCD Focuses on Organization; Looks to Plan” Jack Hollon – finding ways to conserve water, decrease waste.

• Volume 29, No. 13 Saturday, February 14, 2004 p1 “Support Sought to Stop Tower” Charles McClure – Woodcreek residents distributing flyer. They fear the tower will make their property values decrease.

• Volume 29, no 28 Saturday, April 10, 2004 p1,5 “New Tower Plans Unveiled at April 17 WPOA Meeting” Charles McClure – the tower will stand in the place of the old stand pipe.

• Volume 29, No. 32 Wednesday, April 21, 2004 p1, 4 “Aqua Texas Will Move Water Tower” Charles McClure – made it official at Woodcreek Property Owners Association meeting.

• Volume 29, No. 39 Saturday, May 15, 2004 p4 “LCRA Taking Steps Toward Development of Hamilton Pool Road” Charles Wood – proposal to extend waterline on Hamilton Pool Road to benefit three land-owners. Organized opposition fears dense developments will follow, landowner’s position, public comments.

• Volume 29, No. 40 Wednesday May 19, 2004 p4 “AquaTexas Seeking Rate Hike With TCEQ” Robert L. Laughman – information about AquaTexas.

• Volume 29, No. 46 Wednesday, June 9, 2004 p4 “Hays County Agrees to Keep Its Original Agreement with LCRA” Mary Elizabeth Davis – customers using HWY 290 pipeline will be charged 6% fee.

• Volume 29, No. 50 Wednesday, June 23, 2004 p1,5 “Aqua Texas Rate Hearing July 1” Mary Elizabeth Davis – increase in rate affects residents.

• Volume 29, No. 57 Saturday, July 17, 2004 p1,7 “Woodcreek Council Suspends Aqua Texas Rate Increase” Mary Elizabeth Davis – for 90 day review period.

Nature/Environmental Conservancy


• Volume 28, No. 92 Saturday, November 15, 2003, p10 “Danforth Students Do Their Part for ‘Recycles Day’” Mary Elizabeth Davis

• Volume 28, No. 96 Saturday, November 29, 2003, p9 photo and caption, junior high students learn about recycling and conservation.

• Volume 28, No. 98 Saturday, December 6, 2003, p9 “HaysCAN Honored For county Advocacy Role” – HaysCAN protects neighborhood values and conservation of the natural environment.
• Volume 29, No. 1 Saturday, January 3, 2004 p1 “County Approves Grant for New Driftwood Recycling Site” Mary Elizabeth Davis – $30,000, and HEB donated cardboard balers.

• Volume 29, No. 23 Saturday, March 20, 2004 p8 “Cheatham to Speak at WIC Event March 23” – President of Useful Wild Plants, Inc., to speak at Wimberley Institute of Cultures. “Useful Wild Plants Project was conceived as a means to conserve the rich legacy of a botanical domain that spans Texas and encompasses the southern two-thirds of the United States and the Northern Third of Mexico.”

• Volume 29, No. 23 Saturday, March 20, 2004 p14 “Keep Wimberley Beautiful” Martha Knies and Dawn Teague – ecostatistics should be of some concern, regarding status of land in the next 50 years; insect repelling plants.


• Volume 29, No. 46 Wednesday, June 9, 2004 p6 “What is ‘The Refuge?’” Patsy S. Glenn—1.8 acres serves as example how to create bird-haven, and manage rain water runoff in small spaces.

• Volume 29, No. 52 Wednesday, June 30, 2004 p1 “HC Hires Outside Legal Counsel For Mitigation Plan” Mary Elizabeth Davis – “A mitigation bank allows the county to purchase undeveloped property in plans to provide habitat for endangered species in exchange for developing projects in areas where they are found to live.” In other county business: approved resolution regarding FM 1626 improvements.

• Volume 29, No. 61 Saturday, July 31, 2004 p1 “Hays County Goes Out for Grant for Recycling Centers” Mary Elizabeth Davis – submitted to CAPCO for up to $42,000 to build sheds to house donated balers.

• Volume 29, No. 72 Wednesday, September 8, 2004 p3 “Corral Theatre to Hold Fund Raiser For ‘The Refuge’” – Showing the movie, “Two Brothers,” and giving proceeds to bird and nature sanctuary.

• Volume 29, No. 73 Saturday, September 11, 2004 p7 “Corral Fund Raiser to Aid WBS” – regarding movie to raise funds for bird sanctuary.

• Volume 29, No. 74 Wednesday, September 15, 2004 p1 “Birders Benefit This Weekend At Corral” – movie fund raiser for bird sanctuary.

Road Development (not every newspaper represented)

• Volume 28, No. 48 Saturday May 14, 2003, p1,5 “Emergency Lane Plans Being Mulled” – Transportation Advisory Board suggests widening the road to 3 lanes. $24,700 project. Texas Department of Transportation will be widening Ranch Road 12.

• Volume 28, No. 53 Wednesday, July 2, 2003, p1,7 “Council Agrees to Widen Emergency Lane” Mary Elizabeth Davis – and other city business regarding zoning ordinances.

• Volume 28, No. 71 Wednesday, September 3, 2003, p1 “Road Repairs Top WC Fiscal Budget” Charles McClure – $253,638 for road repairs and a new City Hall.
- Volume 28, 88 Saturday, November 1, 2003, p1, 7 “Carter’s Action Taken to Task by HC Attorney” Mary Elizabeth Davis – Carter allegedly ordered road repairs without court approval.
- Volume 28, No. 89 Wednesday, November 5, 2003, p4 “Carter Givers Her Response to Road Maintenance Dispute”
- Volume 28, No. 89 Wednesday, November 5, 2003, p4 “Letters to the Editor” – Susie Carter corrects newspapers quote.
- Volume 28, No. 90 Saturday, November 8, 2003, p1, 5 “HC Clarifies Policy on City Road Repairs” Mary Elizabeth Davis
- Volume 28, No. 90 Saturday, November 8, 2003, p1, 5 “San Marcos Loop Begins to Take Shape, Minus Caldwell County” Mary Elizabeth Davis – Caldwell County residents object to the loop (hwy 110).
- Volume 28, No. 91 Wednesday, November 12, 2003, p1, 8 “City Okays Interlocal Agreement with WISD” Mary Elizabeth Davis – other city business: road name changes and discussion of road improvements
- Volume 28, No. 94 Saturday, November 22, 2003, p4 “Letters to the Editor” – Jo Ann Huddleston defends Carter regarding road issue.
- Volume 28, No. 96 Saturday, November 29, 2003, p1,7 “County Schedules Public Hearing on Repairing Private Kyle Road” Mary Elizabeth Davis – $50,000 to $55,000
- Volume 28, No. 99 Wednesday, December 10,2003, p1, 5 “County Ends Road Probe Against Carter” Mary Elizabeth Davis – investigations discontinued, not enough evidence.
- Volume 28, No. 101 Wednesday, December 17, 2003, p1,5 “Woodcreek Council Mulls LaRocca Lane” – public hearing to be held for residents to voice concern.
- Volume 29, No. 4, Wednesday, January 14, 2004 p1 “Creekside Subdivision to Vote on HC Road Fix” Mary Elizabeth Davis – residents will vote to repair the road, and residents will pay for the cost.
- Volume 29, No. 7 Saturday, January 24, 2004 p1,5 “LaRocca Lane Topic of Woodcreek Town Hall” – residents concerned about increased traffic.
- Volume 29, No. 9 Saturday, January 31, 2004 p1,5 “WC Mulls Fate of LaRocca Lane” Charles McClure – citizens debate over the fate of this small stretch of road.
- Volume 29, No. 13 Saturday, February 14, 2004 p1,2 “LaRocca Lane to Remain Open” Charles McClure – City Council promises to take other measures to slow down the traffic on the road.
- Volume 29, No. 13 Saturday, February 14, 2004 p7 “Residents Say Yes to County for Kyle Road Repairs” Mary Elizabeth Davis – Creekside Trail will get road repairs estimated at $60,000. Residents will reimburse the county.
- Volume 29, No. 19 Saturday, March 6, 2004 p1,5 “TxDOT Woes May Force HC Into Tough Decisions” Mary Elizabeth Davis – court developed a committee to work with TxDOT to look for ways to pay for roadway projects.
- Volume 29, No. 20 Wednesday, March 10, 2004 p1,5 “Council to Move Forward With Emergency Lane” Mary Elizabeth Davis
Volume 29, No. 32 Wednesday, April 21, 2004 p1,5 “Council Okays Land Donations to Realign Spoke Hollow Road” Mary Elizabeth Davis – Three residents donated small portions of their properties as right-of-way to the city. They will receive $10 each.

Volume 29, No. 59 Saturday, July 24, 2004 p1,5 “Little Arkansas Phase II Road Approved By County Commission” Mary Elizabeth Davis—construction of the multi-million 5 mile roadway.

Volume 29, No. 59 Saturday, July 24, 2004 p1,7 “HC To Improve Spoke Hollow Road” Mary Elizabeth Davis—commissioners agreed to spend $50,000 four years ago.

Volume 29, No. 60 Wednesday, July 28, 2004 p1 “Meetings To Help Prep For RR12” Charles McClure – Meetings regarding widening and new bridge for RR12. Construction to begin in August and will take 2 years.

Volume 29, No. 61 Saturday, July 31, 2004 p1,5 “Federal Funds To Pay For Bridge” Mary Elizabeth Davis—residents attend TxDot meeting, learn about project to expand RR12 and replace Cypress Creek Bridge.

Volume 29, No. 61 Saturday, July 31, 2004 p4 “Calm In the Eye of the Storm” Charles McClure – Editor gives opinion on TxDot projects.

Volume 29, No. 64 Wednesday, August 11, 2004 p1,5 “City Braces For RR12 Impact” Mary Elizabeth Davis—Road may impact local business, may affect sales tax.

Volume 29, No. 65 Saturday, August 14, 2004 p1,5 “Emergency Lane Expected To Be Finished In Late September” – will not be open in time for new school year; had to wait for PEC to move utility poles.

Volume 29, No. 68 Wednesday, August 25, 2004 p1,4 “Construction Plan Offered By Merchants” Mary Elizabeth Davis – Wimberley Merchants Association proposes monthly activities and keeping business open late hours in order to entice shoppers when RR12 construction is going on.

Misc.

Volume 28, No. 89 Wednesday, November 5, 2003, p6,7 “Make Safety Your Number One Rule While Hunting” – hunter safety stats and information.

Volume 28, No. 89 Wednesday, November 5, 2003, p7 “Deer Population Plentiful in Hays County” – previous year brought 165,000 hunters to Hill Country.


Volume 28, No. 100 Saturday, December 13, 2003, p4 “Letter to the Editor” – J.L. Hudson surprised at $1 price of land and sewer treatment facility that Village bought.

Volume 29, No. 11 Saturday, February 7, 2004 p1,5 “Local Family Claims Kudu Was Stolen, Sold and Killed” courtesy Austin American-Statesman Jason Embry and Asher Price – ranchers near Wimberley lost Kudu, investigation found that AquaSource employees stole the animal and sold it.
• Volume 29, No. 13 Saturday, February 14, 2004 p1 Picture and caption regarding Habitat for Humanity
• Volume 29, No. 39 Saturday, May 15, 2004 p16 “Keep Wimberley Beautiful” Martha Knies and Dawn Teague – Oak Wilt Disease
• Volume 29, No. 56 Wednesday, July 14, 2004 p1, 3 “Aqua Texas Sewage Spills Into Creek” – swimmers ordered out of Cypress Creek Falls Swimming Hole, although water tested okay.
• Volume 29, No. 65 Saturday, August 14, 2004 p4 “Blue Hole E-coli Counts Test High” – sample taken August 9.
• Volume 29, No. 70 Wednesday, September 1, 2004 p8 “Hays-Comal FSA Deadline Sept. 3” – deadline for nominations for FSA County Committee.
• Volume 29, No. 72 Wednesday, September 8, 2004 p1,5 “Businessman Sees Hill Country Economy Picking Up” Charles McClure – Mike Kirkpatrick, owner of “Y Center” says, “I see things picking up throughout the Texas Hill Country.”

Multiple Topics
• Volume 28, No. 97 Wednesday, December 3, 2003, p1,5 “City Purchases Treatment Plant” Mary Elizabeth Davis – wastewater treatment plant near Blue Hole. “The current owner of Blue Hole previously had plans to sell the property to a developer who proposed a dense housing development and a lodge.”
• Volume 28, No. 97 Wednesday, December 3, 2003, p1, 14 “Development’s Wastewater Permit Halted” Mary Elizabeth Davis – Heatherwood development. Court is waiting for David Brooks legal advice. Other county business: application for Texas Water Development Board Regional Wastewater Facilities Planning grant; fees set for subdivisions with on-site sewage.
• Volume 28, No. 103 Wednesday, December 24, 2003, p1, 5 “City Hires Park Designer” Mary Elizabeth Davis – Austin firm, $59,700 to design plans for the Cypress Creek Nature Trail property. other city business: UMC property annexation, hearing for Blue Hole property announced.
• Volume 29, No. 6 Wednesday, January 21, 2004 p1,5 “Trail Finding its Paths After Lengthy Study” Mary Elizabeth Davis – other city business: council annexes UM Church lot; county authorizes $3,500 to Don Graham for Appraising Blue Hole property.
• Volume 29, No. 8 Wednesday, January 28, 2004 p1,5 “Carter’s Attempt to Halt Development Fails” Mary Elizabeth Davis – (Heatherwood) Carter requests the court to file a motion for reconsideration to TCEQ. Debbie Gonzales is the only supporter. Other county business: hearing set to consider regulations (Heatherwood), court releases construction bonds from private subdivisions, court grants LCRA temporary construction easement.
• Volume 29, No. 12 Wednesday, February 11, 2004 p1,6 “City Election is Set for May 15” Mary Elizabeth Davis – other city news: Blue Hole fund raising, zoning
application for Wimberley Theater, amendment to antenna facilities ordinance and zoning ordinance.

- **Volume 29, No. 15 Saturday, February 21, 2004 p1,7** “TdOT Says County Must Reevaluate Its Transportation Plan” Mary Elizabeth Davis – because TdOT cannot fund all future roadway projects. Other county business: “The county judge handed Buda Mayor John Trube with a $300,000 check for the Stagecoach Park Project”; members go into executive session but take no action regarding lawsuit with Papalote Homes.

- **Volume 29, No. 27 Saturday, April 3, 2004 p1** “Study: Paving Way for RR12 Widening” Mary Elizabeth Davis – environmental impact study. Information on public concern

- **Volume 29, No. 28 Wednesday, April 7, 2004 p1,6** “City Solicits Bids For Contractor to Widen ER Lane” Mary Elizabeth Davis – Emergency Lane, the most used roadway in the city limits. Other city business: council continued public hearing for zoning app for Saddleridge Business Park; members approved “Keep Wimberley Beautiful” signs on RR12.

- **Volume 29, No. 30 Saturday, April 17, 2004 p1,7** “Court’s Subdivision Ruling Paves Way for Application Submission” Mary Elizabeth Davis – District Judge James F. Clawson denies septic system permit for Heatherwood. Concurs that the development is a subdivision. Other county business: work authorization for construction of Mt. Gainor Road; pending improvements of Centerpoint Road.

- **Volume 29, No. 34 Wednesday, April 28, 2004 p1,5** “HC, LCRA Team Up To Protect Open Spaces” Mary Elizabeth Davis – “Commissioners decided Tuesday to set aside the six percent of what it gets from the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA in water fees to purchase open spaces impacted by future development.”

- **Volume 29, No. 49 Saturday, June 19, 2004 p1,9** “HC Pulls Hiring Counsel To Handle Environmental Issues for Bond Projects” Mary Elizabeth Davis – county had planned to hire law firm to make sure it complies with endangered species acts when it builds, but pulled the item from court agenda. County will develop mitigation bank which will help during construction of Wimberley Bypass. Other county business: Court approves public hearing regarding Cabela’s (Buda).

- **Volume 29, No. 55 Saturday, July 10, 2004 p1,7** “City Blocks Aqua Texas Rate Hikes” Mary Elizabeth Davis—Council voted for 3 month suspension to have time to study the changes. In other city business: council approved plans for nature trail and preserve.

- **Volume 29, No. 57 Saturday, July 17, 2004 p1,6** “HC Offers $500,000 for I-35 Upgrades” Mary Elizabeth Davis – County will pay $500,000 to accommodate shoppers when Cabela’s opens in Buda. In other county business: “commissioners authorized the county judge to execute an Interlocal Economic Development Agreement with Dupre Local Government Corporation relating to the Cabela’s project.”

- **Volume 29, No. 63 Saturday, August 7, 2004 p1, 10** “Mayor Fields Questions At Public Forum” Charles McClure – answers questions about Community Center, building permits and ordinances, Bed and Breakfast taxes, Blue Hole project status, Hays County Bypass, and other road repairs.
• Volume 29, No. 68 Wednesday, August 25, 2004 p1,4 “City Okays Septic Management Pact” Mary Elizabeth Davis – eight shops on the square will maintain and operate the system and prevent water from leaking into Cypress Creek. Other city business: Council agreed to submit community center design to the TX Parks and Wildlife Dept as part of grant process.

• Volume 29, No. 75 Saturday, September 18, 2004 p1,9 “HC Dispenses $700k To Help Buy Blue Hole” Mary Elizabeth Davis—Mayor says, “We have the money to take title to the land. We don’t have all the money to get all the infrastructure yet.” Other county business: court submitting grant application to Office of Rural Affairs for water improvement for Cedar Oaks Mesa; court accepted donation from Hays County Youth Livestock Association for 164 aluminum bleachers.
KYLE EAGLE

Development (Residential, School, Commercial)

- Kyle- v19, 47 (p3) “New Home Models at Knolls of Slaughter Creek”: Pulte Homes selling at the Knolls, south of Austin.
- Kyle- v19, 47 (p3) “Antioch Community Church receives $1,600 building Contribution”: from Trivent Financial for Lutherans.
- Kyle- v19, 48 (p1,2) “Trustees review school bond options, election dates”: proposals reflect two new elementary schools, one new middle school, completion of phase 2 of renovations at Lehman High School, and land acquisition and infrastructure.
- Kyle- v19, 50 (p1) “Home Depot Said to Be On Fast Track”: Home Depot being built on site called “Kyle Towne Center”
- Kyle- v19, 51 (p1,3) “Home Depot Plan Unveiled”: to P&Z. They recommend to send plan to city council. Carnegie Corporation to develop retail center as well.
- Kyle- v19, 51 (p1,2) “School Bond Task Force Reviews Facility Needs: Superintendent says 2 new elementary schools, 1 new middle school needed by Year 2006”
- Kyle- v20,01 (p5) “Mockingbird Hill Opens in Choice Area of San Marcos”: Pulte Homes Residential area.
- Kyle- v20, 01 (p4) “TRCC adopts emergency rules for registration of builders”: Texas Residential Construction Commission; all builders, contractors, and remodelers must register with the commission and pay filing fee.
- Kyle- v20,02 (p1) pictures and caption: City Council holds meeting to discuss planning and development goals for 2004.
- Kyle- v20,05 (p1,10) “HC To Conduct Public Hearing On Subdivision Rules”: Heatherwood argument between neighbors and Matt Duffy.
- Kyle- v20,05 (p5) “Move From the Hustle to No Hassles at Knolls of Slaughter Creek”: Pulte Homes.
- Kyle- v20,06 (p1) “Last Move for the Depot”: land around the depot to be improved
- Kyle- v20,06 (p1,4) “County Proposes Rules for Multi-family Units”: hires David Brooks as attorney. regarding Heatherwood debate.
- Kyle- v20,06 (p1,2) “Judge Adjourns Meeting During Carter’s Presentation”: regarding Heatherwood, possible Open Meetings violation.
- Kyle- v20,06 (p2,3) Letters to the Editor: regarding Susie Carter’s presentation. Letters from Jim Powers (HC Judge), Mike Wenk (HC DA), Bruce Renfro, Dorothy Blue, and Susan Cook
- Kyle- v20,07 (p1,3) “School Board reviews Draft Bond Package”: regarding need for new schools.
- Kyle- v20,07 (p1,5) “DS Developer Threatens Suit Against County”: regarding Heatherwood.
- Kyle- v20,07 (p1,4) “Carter Criticizes County Judge for Adjournment”: regarding presentation on Heatherwood, violating Open Meetings Act.
• Kyle- v20,07 (p2) Letter to the Editor: regarding school bond proposal. Citizen does not believe new school is necessary.
• Kyle- v20,08 (p4) “New Hometown Kyle Community Grand Opening set April 3”: Pulte homes new community.
• Kyle- v20,09 (p5) “Lockhart Receives $150,000 Business Development Grant from USDA”: to be used for the construction of infrastructure in Lockhart Industrial Park II.
• Kyle- v20,09 (p6) “County Faces Space Crunch & Old Buildings With Problems”: Precinct 2 officers and adult probation department are cramped in current building and desire to move to a bigger facility.
• Kyle- v20, 10 (p6) “Groundbreaking for new Fire/EMS Station”: photo.
• Kyle- v20, 12 (p1,5) “Trustees Pick Site for New Elementary”: Hays CISD will purchase 10.5 acres in Kensington Trails subdivision. for $157,200.
• Kyle- v20, 12 (p6) “Dispute Over Development Lands Hays County in Two New Lawsuits”: commissioners hire outside attorney regarding Heatherwood lawsuits.
• Kyle- v20, 13 (p2,3) Letter to the Editor: regarding the Heatherwood lawsuit. Citizen pleads for the Court to quit stalling.
• Kyle- v20,13 (p7) “Pulte Homes Offers Sweet Deals on Town homes in Plum Creek”
• Kyle- v 20, 14 (p1,4) “Bond Committee Sets Public Hearings: Public can comment on school bond proposals April 25 & April 29”: funds for new schools may be discussed
• Kyle- Volume 20, No. 15 Wednesday, April 21, 2004
  p1, 10 “Judge’s Ruling Opens Door For Heatherwood Settlement” Mary Elizabeth Davis – Judge Clawson denied developer’s request, commissioners give environmental health staff permission to review the plat application. Duffy plans to let attorney’s reach decision.
• Kyle- Volume 20, No. 17 Wednesday, April 28, 2004 p1,5 “School Board Picks Architects for Proposed Bond Projects” – Hays CISD selected 3 architects. Enrollment has grown 5.58 percent in the past year.
• Kyle- Volume 20, No. 18 Wednesday, May 5, 2004 p1,7 “$50 Million On the Table For Cabela’s” Mary Elizabeth Davis—175,000 square foot facility on 126-acre site. Plan to form Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District.
• Kyle- Volume 20, No. 18 Wednesday, May 5, 2004 p1 “Public Voices Opinions over HCISD Bond Proposal” and information regarding how to give input.
• Kyle- Volume 20, No. 20 Wednesday, May 19, 2004 p1, 10 “County Okays Financial Plan to Bring Cabela’s to Buda” Mary Elizabeth Davis – commissioners sign up onto the project. Policy caps the agreement at $4.5 million, plus 33% of county’s half cent sales tax.
• Kyle- Volume 20, No. 23 Wednesday, June 9, 2004 p6 “HC Approves Preliminary Plan, Road Variance for Heatherwood” Mary Elizabeth Davis—neighbors upset. Renfro states, “I plan to spend the remainder of the summer finishing Porkelote Hog Farm.”
• Kyle- Volume 20, No. 24 Wednesday, June 16, 2004 p1,8 “County Okays Final Plat for Heatherwood” Mary Elizabeth Davis—Duffy drops lawsuit.
• Kyle- Volume 20, No. 24 Wednesday, June 16, 2004 p2 “Letters to the Editor”—Susan Cook expresses disappointment over Heatherwood decision.
• Kyle- Volume 20, No. 25 Wednesday, June 23, 2004 p1 “School Bond Public Hearing Set June 28”
• Kyle- Volume 20, No. 26 Wednesday, June 30, 2004 p2 “Letters to the Editor” – Renfro expresses frustration with Commissioners Court over Heatherwood decision.
• Kyle- Volume 20, No. 27 Wednesday, July 7, 2004 p1, 10 “HCISD Calls Bond Election for Sept. 11”
• Kyle- Volume 20, No. 27 Wednesday, July 7, 2004 p1 “School Board Discusses Long Term Vision, Reviews $60 Million Budget” – reflecting on population growth.
• Kyle- Volume 20, No. 28 Wednesday, July 14, 2004 p2 “Letters to the Editor” – concerning school bonds, pro and con.
• Volume 20, No. 29 Wednesday, July 21, 2004 p2 “Letters to the Editor” – resident opinion on School bond issue.
• Kyle- Volume 20, No. 29 Wednesday, July 21, 2004 p8 photo and caption—new business ribbon cutting, DeBries Family Chiropractic
• Kyle- Volume 20, No. 13 (33) Wednesday, August 18, 2004 p1, 4 “AG’s Opinion Confirms Condo Development a Subdivision” Mary Elizabeth Davis – Attorney General calls Heatherwood a subdivision. Susie Carter requests county to hire attorneys, commissioners take no action.
• Kyle- Volume 20, No. 13 (33) Wednesday, August 18, 2004 p1,4 “County Committee Seeks $30 Million For Office Expansion” Mary Elizabeth Davis—requesting construction of a building that puts all departments under one roof. Jim Powers denies request saying he needs more proof that it is needed.
• Kyle- Volume 20, No. 13 (33) Wednesday, August 18, 2004 p2 “Letters to the Editor” – resident’s opinion on school bond proposal.
• Kyle- Volume 20, No. 34 Wednesday, September 1, 2004 p1,3 “Commissioners, [sic] Developer Discuss Lawsuit Settlement” – regarding open meetings act lawsuit by Heatherwood owner.
• Kyle- Volume 20, No. 34 Wednesday, September 1, 2004 p2 “Letters to the Editor”—Susie Carter writes about Open Meetings lawsuit and is confident Hays County will win; Bruce Renfro commends Carter’s actions on Heatherwood issues; Russ Molenaar writes clarifying letter about Heatherwood. Says, “Unfortunately, we are in a high growth area and will continue to see development coming into Hays County.”
• Kyle- Volume 20, No. 34 Wednesday, September 1, 2004 p10 “Choice Homes Offers New Homes, Upgrades” – 2 communities in Kyle.
• Kyle- Volume 20, No. 35 Wednesday, September 8, 2004 p2 “Letters to the Editor” – Charles O’Dell of HaysCan and Friendship Alliance Board of Directors responses to Molenaar’s letter from the previous week.
• Kyle- Volume 20, No. 35 Wednesday, September 8, 2004 p4 photo and caption—“Palm Harbor Kyle Plant Observes Construction of 10,000th Home”
• Kyle- Volume 20, No. 36 Wednesday, September 15, 2004 p1 “HCISD Bond Package Passes By Huge Margin” – package includes two new elementary schools, new middle school, and improvements to other schools.

• Kyle- Volume 20, No. 36 Wednesday, September 15, 2004 p2 “Letters to the Editor” – letters regarding Heatherwood settlement.

• Kyle- Volume 20, No. 37 Wednesday, September 22, 2004 p1,4 “City, County Discuss Tax Investments” Mary Elizabeth Davis – TIF district in Kyle for Home Depot, possibly Wal-Mart.

• Kyle- Volume 20, No. 37 Wednesday, September 22, 2004 p1,4 “HC Makes Offer To Settle Open Meetings Lawsuit and Save Thousands In Legal Fees” Mary Elizabeth Davis – county’s lawyers step down, and county offers settlement.

• Kyle- Volume 20, No. 38 Wednesday, September 29, 2004 p8 “Board Hears Positive Financial Report; Moves On Site Selection For New Schools”

Historic/Museum

• Kyle- V 19, 48 (p1,4) “County pitches in $5,000 for Building of War Memorial”:

• Kyle- Volume 20, No. 26 Wednesday, June 30, 2004 p1 “KAP House Wins Historic Landmark Status” –qualified at the National level.

Parks and Recreation

• Kyle- V 19, 48 (p1) “City Pool Making Good Progress”: $1.6 million.

• Kyle- V19, 52 (p4) photo and caption regarding development of hike and bike trail between two subdivisions.

• Kyle- v20, 01 (p1,3) “Historic Blue Hole Part of Major Park Development”: 127-acre,

• Kyle- v20,08 (p10) “Steeplechase Cleanup a Big Success”: 75 volunteers from the county clean up Steeplechase Park.

• Kyle- v20,11 (p5) photo and caption: new Municipal pool construction nearing completion, pool being filled with water.

• Kyle- v20, 14 (p4) “Grand Opening for Community Swimming Pool This Saturday”

• Kyle- Volume 20, No. 17 Wednesday, April 28, 2004 p2 “More Than 700 Turn Out for Grand Opening of New Kyle Community Swimming Pool” Charles McClure

• Kyle- Volume 20, No. 22 Wednesday, June 2, 2004 p1,3 “County Commits $150,000 to Park Upgrade” Mary Elizabeth Davis—Camp Ben McCulloch organizers will receive the money when they raise further funding and begin the projects.

• Kyle- Volume 20, No. 22 Wednesday, June 2, 2004 p7-10 “Hill Country Summer Fun” – articles on local areas of recreation; Hill Country, swimming spots, campsites.

• Kyle- Volume 20, No. 23 Wednesday, June 9, 2004 p3 “State Parks Offer Varied, Affordable Vacation Opportunities” Jeff Wentworth—Senator suggests local vacation spots.


• Kyle- Volume 20, No. 37 Wednesday, September 22, 2004 p1,4 “County Commits $222,500 To Kyle Park Plan” Mary Elizabeth Davis – for upgrading existing park.
Agriculture
- Kyle- v20,01 (p1,10) “State Veterinarian: Meat Supply Safe From ‘Mad Cow’”
- Kyle- v20,03 (p8) “2004 Livestock Show Kicks Off This Week”: 4-Hers and FFA members will show off agricultural projects.
- Kyle- v20,04 (p1,3) “Officials Say Livestock Show Mostly a Winner”: financial numbers will be down $251,880 (estimation). winner report.
- Kyle- v20,13 (p1,3) “Wimberley Resident Named New County Extension Agent”: Bryan Davis, new extension agent of agriculture and natural resources.
- Kyle- Volume 20, No. 35 Wednesday, September 8, 2004 p10 “County Dog Enthusiasts Win Big At State 4-H Show”

Community Education/Survey
- Kyle- v 19, 47 (p1,10) “Lecture Series Planned on Water Quality”: Announcement of “The Project” lecture series. Information about “The Project”. goal is to develop a set of water quality standards for developments in Hays County receiving water from the LCRA. Core Committee pleas for good consultant.
- Kyle- v 19, 48 (p2,3) “Letters to the Editor”: Letter from Susan Cook to Papalote Homes (Heatherwood).
- Kyle- v 19, 48 (p4) “Opening of Motley’s Menagerie Delayed” due to proposed new zoning ordinance to convert Center Street to a business corridor.
- Kyle- v 19, 48 (p5) “Residents Upset Over Condo Development, Lack of Rules”: Hays County commissioners table discussion on their authority to regulate.
- Kyle- v 19, 49 (p1,4) “Commissioners’ 3-2 Vote Delays Condominium Project”: Commissioners ordered staff not to sign off on (Heatherwood) septic system permit until they hear from David B. Brooks regarding county authority. Other county business: court passed resolution supporting application for a Texas Water Development Board Regional Wastewater Facilities Planning grant by Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority; commissioners set fees for subdivision facility planning reviews for subdivision within municipalities . . .
- Kyle- v 19, 50 (p10) “Survey shows Central Texans Have Big Concern for Quality of Life”: Envision Central Texas survey results. Info regarding the survey, projected Texas population.
- Volume 20, No. 20 Wednesday, May 19, 2004 p1,4 “Envision Survey Shows Residents Care About Their Quality of Life” Mary Elizabeth Davis – ECT wants the results to be used to help government entities in deciding about growth and preservation.
- Kyle- Volume 20, No. 21 Wednesday, May 26, 2004 p1,12 “Resident Urges County Not to Support Envision Regional Planning Effort” Mary Elizabeth Davis—Jim Green questions intentions and validity of survey.
- Kyle- Volume 20, No. 24 Wednesday, June 16, 2004 p4 “Regional Water Quality Planning Group Makes Progress in June 8 Meeting” Charles Wood—70 people attended regional planning organization’s stakeholders meeting . . . divided into subgroups.
• Kyle- Volume 20, No. 28 Wednesday, July 14, 2004 p1,8 “Water Quality Planning Group Appoints Stakeholders” Charles Wood—95 people attended second meeting. The committee will help develop rules for development over Barton Springs.

**Water/Waterline Development**

• Kyle- v19, 48 (p1, 3) “City seeks more water from BSEACD”: Kyle has to wait for decision regarding groundwater permit to increase pumping limit from 55 million gallons to 165 million gallons.
• Kyle- v20, 06 (p1,5) “Council Approves Water Study” to find other sources of water in order to give the city breathing room in the event of a drought.
• Kyle- v20,08 (p3) “Groundwater Availability Workshop set March 17”: to determine the amount of groundwater available in the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer because demand for water is increasing.
• Kyle- v20,10 (p3) “Hays Trinity Conservation District Looks for Balance in Groundwater Use”: warnings against over pumping, and misuse of water resources.
• Kyle- v20, 14 (p2) “Water Law, Policies are Focus of Senate Select Committee” (Senator column): regarding managing water resources in Texas to meet the needs of a growing population.
• Volume 20, No. 19 Wednesday, May 12, 2004 p2 “Barton Springs Aquifer District Serving the Public” Jim Camp – Camp highlights board’s achievements.
• Kyle- Volume 20, No. 21 Wednesday, May 26, 2004 p2,3 “Letters to the Editor”—resident Joe Burke informs readers about Aqua Texas rate increase and urges people to mail in protests.
• Kyle- Volume 20, No. 23 Wednesday, June 9, 2004 p1, 3 “HC Approves User Fee for LCRA Water Line in North Hays County” Mary Elizabeth Davis – customers will pay 6% service fee which will go to mitigation and purchasing of open space.
• Kyle- Volume 20, No. 24 Wednesday, June 16, 2004 p4 “Water is Source of Clashing Interests in North HC” Rob Baxter – author upset at Molenaar and Powers for voting against collecting the 6% LCRA fee.

**Community Growth**

• Kyle- v19, 52 (p2) “Growing Kyle Helps Itself and the Edwards Aquifer”: (guest commentary by Jim Camp).
• Kyle- v 19, 50 (p3) “Officials Discuss Cooperation in Dealing With Growth, Transportation”: quote: “another 8,500 to 9,000 homes are in the ‘pipeline’ to appear in Kyle over the next few years.”
• Kyle- Volume 20, No. 27 Wednesday, July 7, 2004 p4 “Blanco River Conference Set July 17” – to discuss sprawl and its effects on landscape and water quality.
• Kyle- Volume 20, No. 34 Wednesday, September 1, 2004 p1,4 “Officials Cite Record Growth In Area” – North Hays Leadership Council meeting, 40 attended. Growth statistics, predictions that Kyle population will grow to 40-45,000.
• Kyle- Volume 20, No. 34 Wednesday, September 1, 2004 p2 “New State Online Service Offers Help to Job Seekers” Jeff Wentworth—“TWC statistics indicate that Texas has added 51,800 non-agricultural jobs since January 2004 and 87,900 non-agricultural jobs since September 2003.”
Nature/Environmental Conservancy

- Kyle- v 19, 49 (p5) “HaysCAN Recognized for Community Advocacy, Conserving Environment”
- Kyle- v20, 01 (p1, 5) “Nature Conservancy Initiates Blanco River Project”: Nature Conservancy of Texas teams up with public and private partners.
- Kyle- v20,09 (p1,10) “TxDOT ‘Gotcha’ Program Puts a Lid on Littering: Tossing a small item out of a vehicle can result in Class C misdemeanor charge”
- Kyle- Volume 20, No. 25 Wednesday, June 23, 2004 p1,3 “County Considers Fund to Conserve Land” Mary Elizabeth Davis—plan to hire law firm to help with Mitigation Bank to protect endangered species.
- Kyle- Volume 20, No. 28 Wednesday, July 14, 2004 p1 “Grassland Reserve Program Open for Applications Through July 23” Owners of grassland can enroll in GRP to restore and protect the land while using them as grazing lands. A 2002 Farm Bill conservation program administered by USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency.

Road Development (not every newspaper represented)

- Kyle- v 19, 47 (p1,5) “HC neighbors upset over proposed San Marcos Loop”: The loop cuts into Caldwell County resident Curby Ohnheiser’s property.
- Kyle- v 19, 48 (p3) “Repair of Kyle Area Road Subject of County Public Hearing Jan 6.”: Creekside Trail, private road.
- Kyle- v19,49 (p1,3) “Toll Road Issue Starts to Heat Up:
- Kyle- v19, 51 (p1,10) “County Drops Investigation of Carter Over Road Issue”: regarding Carter wrongfully requesting road repairs in Niederwald.
- Kyle- v20,02 (p1,4) “Residents Can Vote For Road Repairs”: regarding Creekside Trail in Kyle, residents will have to repay the county.
- Kyle- v20,06 (p1) “Transportation Focus of Feb. 12 Meeting”
- Kyle- v20,06 (p10) “County Will Repair Creekside Trail After ‘Yes’ Vote by Residents”: $60,000 to be reimbursed by residents.
- Kyle- v20,07 (p4) “Transportation Official Says Agreement Close on FM1626 Extension”, 100 people show up at City Hall to hear about roads.
- Kyle- v20,08 (p1,3) “ TxDOT to County: ‘Rethink Road Plan’ ”: TxDOT may be unable to fund road projects due to lower gas tax and high maintenance of existing roads.
- Kyle- v20,08 (p2) “State Highway Funding Falling Short of Needs” (Patrick Rose column): regarding road funding.
- Kyle- v20,09 (p1,3) “County Faces Tough Road Decisions”: commissioners try to decide how to pay for road projects.
- Kyle- v20,11 (p1,4) “City Finds New Way to Fund FM 1626 Extension”: will pay back a State Infrastructure Bank (SIB) loan through Tax Increment Financing (TIF) proceeds.
- Kyle- v20,13 (p1,3) “County OKs Study On RR 12 Expansion”: regarding making Ranch Road 12 straighter and wider. Project still 5 years away.
• Kyle- Volume 20, No. 21 Wednesday, May 26, 2004 p7 “County Turns Down Kyle, Other Road Maintenance Requests” – Molenaar says, “We just can’t use up all the money we invested in maintenance.”

• Volume 20, No. 29 Wednesday, July 21, 2004 p1,3 “HC Okays $500,000 for I-35 Upgrades” – funding agreement with TxDOT (who will pay $19.5 million). Will accommodate tourist and shoppers once Cabela’s opens in Buda.

Misc.
• Kyle-v19,53 (p1-10) “The Year in Review”: Various articles from the year reprinted, regarding numerous land use issues.
• Kyle- v20,02 (p1, 8) “Pathfinders Camp Gives Youth a Second Chance”: feature story.
• Kyle- v20, 14 (p6) “Alamo Movie Set Open to Public During Texas Swing Music Festival”: info regarding the location of the set.
• Kyle- Volume 20, No. 23 Wednesday, June 9, 2004 p1,3 “Group Begins Laying Tracks For Commuter Rail” – Commuter rail system from San Antonio to Georgetown may stop in Kyle. Could be done by 2009.

Multiple Topics
• Kyle-v19, 52 (p1,5) “County Ponders Clean Air Measures”: because dirty air will lead to less road funding.
• Kyle-v20,02 (p2) “Report Shows City Made Good Progress On Goals of 2003”: water development, wastewater planning, transportation and road improvements, stormwater/drainage improvements, economic development, 2002-03 building program, FM 1626 construction project, planning, annexation, mapping, mayor and city council, ETJ, Public Safety, City Ordinances and Codes, Personnel.
• Kyle- v20,06 (p1,5) “Kyle City Charter Under Scrutiny”: (p5, other city business), agreement for construction of new fire and EMS station, development of Transportation Master Plan.
• Kyle- v20,08 (p1,4) “City Council Informed Special Audit Not Ready”: (p4 Other city business): City is in final stages in installing a water system leak detection system. “council tabled the second and final reading of an ordinance amending the zoning ordinance by rezoning a parcel of land, compromising 2,82 acres near Interstate 35.”
• Kyle- v20,08 (p1,3) “Money-Losing County Civic Center Begins to Turn Around”: Charles Nagel and others doing repairs/improvement on Civic Center. (p3 Other county business): Court denies final plat for the resubdivision of two lots in Hill Country Ranches. City of San Marcos included into the county’s Texas Parks and Wildlife Department grant application for the Five-Mile Dam Park Project.
• Kyle- v20,11 (p2) “Audit Raises Problems That Must Be Addressed” (guest column), Todd Webster (Councilman) praises City Council for accomplishments, but discusses problems with finances.
• Kyle- v20,13 (p7) “Futures Forum Identifies Critical Issues In County”: water districts, economic development, job growth, diversification, more jobs, and local economic development.
• Kyle- Volume 20, No. 17 Wednesday, April 28, 2004 p5 “County Will Dedicate LCRA Water Fee To Purchases of Open Space” Mary Elizabeth Davis – regarding 6% fee.
• Kyle- Volume 20, No. 19 Wednesday, May 12, 2004 p1,4 “Talks Continue on Cabela’s Incentive Deal” Mary Elizabeth Davis—Plan is to forgo collection of property taxes and some sales taxes. Current investment estimated at $86.8 million. Other county business: Old Stagecoach Road bridge project.
• Kyle- Volume 20, No. 20 Wednesday, May 19, 2004 p5 “Toll Roads Will Be Wave of the Future, State Officials Say” Charles Wood – Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority and TxDot plan to build $2.2 billion worth of toll roads. Details on where the roads will be located. “Molenaar said a planned Nutty Brown Road expansion will be vital to relieve congestion to the east of Dripping Springs. ‘We’re going to have 6,000 to 9,000 homes in that area.’”
• Kyle- Volume 20, No. 21 Wednesday, May 26, 2004 p1,6 “School Board Proposal Totals $86.4 Million” – HCISD to take care of population growth, aging infrastructure, safety, plan to build two new elementary schools and one new middle school.
• Kyle- Volume 20, No. 26 Wednesday, June 30, 2004 p1, 8 “County Commissioners Agree to Hire Special Counsel for Environmental Mitigation Plan” Mary Elizabeth Davis—Susie Carter cast dissenting vote, desiring to get citizen input. Hoping to have plan in place by construction time for Wimberley Bypass.
• Kyle- Volume 20, No. 27 Wednesday, July 7, 2004 p2,3 “Letters to the Editor” Peter French praises extension of FM-1626, Tommy Seargeant questions need for ISD bond. Lewis Bullard upset with Heatherwood decision.
• Volume 20, No. 28 Wednesday, July 14, 2004 p1,8 “Commercial Boom On Kyle’s Horizon” – 610 acres will be actively in development. HEB will be constructed on 52 acre site. Whataburger and Bank of America also confirmed.
DRIPPING SPRINGS NEWS DISPATCH

Development (Residential, School, Commercial)

- v14, No. 94 Saturday, November 22, 2003, p1,2 “Condo Development Planned in DS Area” Mary Elizabeth Davis—Condo Development, East Gatlin Creek Rd. Neighbors upset. Heatherwood “Condominium Regime” — state law that protects the condo. walking path, park, picnic area, impervious cover, 12-acres.

- v14, No. 95 Wednesday, November 26, 2003, p1,2 “DS Commercial Complex Under Construction” Charles Wood – Hwy 290 “Spring Bluff Center” Commercial project in Dripping Springs.

- v14, No. 97 Wednesday, December 3, 2003, p1,5 “HC Halts Wastewater Permit For Condo Development” Mary Elizabeth Davis–Heatherwood Condos, Wastewater permit

- v14, No. 97 Wednesday, December 3, 2003, p3 Pictures and captions “Ribbon Cutting” – True Value Hardware and Good to Go Oil Center.


- v14, No. 100 Saturday, December 13, 2003, p1 “City and FA Nearing Lawsuit Settlement” Charles Wood – Lawsuit regarding development ordinance (FA).

- v14, No. 102 Saturday, December 20, 2003, p1,2 “Large DS Development Back On Table” Charles Wood – Double L. Ranch residential subdivision 100.56 acres.

- v14, No. 104 Wednesday, December 31, 2003, p1,6 “City Overhauling Subdivision Rules” –Subdivision rules being updated.

- v14, No. 104 Wednesday, December 31, 2003, p3 “City and Friendship Alliance Near Out-of-Court Settlement” – FA lawsuit. FA sued the city in order to sever development agreements.

- v15, No. 1 Saturday, January 3, 2004 p2 “TRCC Adopts New Rules for Builders” – Texas Residential Construction Commission

- v15, No. 2 Wednesday, January 7, 2004 p1,8 “ED Corp. Awards Economic Grants” – DS Economic Development Corporation—revitalization grant funds to businesses that improve their property’s attractiveness.

- v15, no 3 Saturday, January 10, 2004 p1 Photo and Caption “Groundbreaking” – Mount Olive Lutheran Church moving nearer to Dripping Springs.

- v14, No. 4 Wednesday, January 14, 2004 p1,3 “P&Z Denies Double L Ranch Final Plat” Charles Wood— because of run-off drainage concerns and population density.

- v15, No. 5 Saturday, January 17, 2004 p2 “DSISD to Interview Architects For Proposed Elementary Campus” – Balterra donates 12.5 acres for Elementary school.

- v15, No. 7 Saturday, January 24, 2004 p1,2 “Commissioner Fails To Halt DS Development” Mary Elizabeth Davis – 17-homes on 12-acres—Papalote Homes, Matt Duffy, gets permit from TCEQ. Susie Carter opposes.

- v15, No. 9 Saturday, January 31, 2004 p1,4 “P&Z Approves Double L Ranch Final Plat” Charles Wood – Double L plat approved (Section one), and water concerns
• v15, No. 9 Saturday, January 31, 2004 p1,5 “HC Sets Public Hearings on Subdivision Rules” Mary Elizabeth Davis--Subdivision rules, Heatherwood debate.
• v15, No. 11 Saturday, February 7, 2004 p1,2 “HC Proposes Rules For Multi-Family Units” Mary Elizabeth Davis--More Heatherwood argument. County hires lawyer to amend subdivision and development regulations. 2 residents complain about quality of life.
• v15, No. 11 Saturday, February 7, 2004 p1 “Judge Adjourns During Carter Presentation” Mary Elizabeth Davis--Susie Carter talks about Heathewood although not on agenda.
• v15, No. 11 Saturday, February 7, 2004 p3 “Letters to the Editor” regarding Carter’s actions and Judge’s decision to terminate meeting.
• v15, No. 12 Wednesday, February 11, 2004 p3 Photo and Caption “Ribbon Cutting” New Liquor store opens
• v15, No. 13 Saturday, February 14, 2004 p1,2 “City Approves Double L Ranch Final Plat” Charles Wood -- Double L plat approved. LCRA. Heated debates. KB withdrew due to neighbors’ pressure. “Residential better than commercial.”
• v15, No. 13 Saturday, February 14, 2004 p1,3 “Carter Criticizes Judge Powers” Mary Elizabeth Davis--Carter presents again, on the agenda.
• v15, No. 13 Saturday, February 14, 2004 p1,4 “DS Developer Threatens Suit Against County” Mary Elizabeth Davis--Heatherwood, Duffy threatens lawsuit over sewer system permit.
• v15, No. 17 Saturday, February 28, 2004 p3 “Consultant Updates HC On Civic Center Changes” Mary Elizabeth Davis—Other county business: The County court turned down a final plat for the resubdivision of two lots in Hill Country Ranches.
• v15, No. 18 Wednesday, March 3, 2004 p2,3 “P&Z Commission Denies Morney Office Building Permit” Charles Wood -- approves development permit for office facility off HWY 290, but denied permit for office building at 120 Frog Pond Ln. due to landscaping issues. “approved a site development permit . . . retail facility . . . 3.6 acres . . . Hwy 290”
• v15, No. 21 Saturday, March 13, 2004 p1,3 “DS Imposes Moratorium” Charles Wood -- Moratorium, 120 days, to allow ordinance fix. “The city often feels caught between developers and environmentalists”—Mayor Todd Purcell. “The population of the city is approximately 1,700 while the estimated population of the extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) covers more than 75,000 acres of land.”
• v15, No. 22 Wednesday, March 17, 2004 p4. “City Votes Moratorium” Robert Morgan—Letters to the editor. re: Moratorium
• v15, No. 22 Wednesday, March 17, 2004 p5. photo and caption--New Business “Java Sea Traders” -- furniture
• v15, No. 23 Saturday, March 20, 2004 p2,4 “City Declines to Hold Developers To Draft Landscape Rules” Charles Wood--City Council goes over the heads of P&Z, re: incomplete landscaping ordinance, and allows permits. City approves RTS, Moroney, Wilson AC. Site development pending on C-4. Use of land by DSHS
• v15, No. 25 Saturday, March 27, 2004 p1,3 “HC Hires Attorney In Heatherwood Suit” Mary Elizabeth Davis--for “crowded tacky development”
• v15, No. 25 Saturday, March 27, 2004 p2 “Belterra Wins Best Overall Community Award” --Balterra Residential community receives 7 awards.
• v15, No. 25 Saturday, March 27, 2004 p4. photo and caption -- New Businesses*6 : Turnkey construction, KJ’s pizza, Ol’ Yeller landscaping, Partnership in Building, Landhaus, RB Hall Realty
• v15, No. 28 Wednesday, April 7, 2004 p1, “Belterra Challenges Friendship Alliance” Charles Wood--legal issues. “Plea of Intervention”
• v15, No. 30 Wednesday, April 14, 2004 p1 “Mayor to Speak at FA Meeting” --Mayor speaks and Friendship Alliance meeting about lawsuit.
• v15, No. 31 Saturday, April 17, 2004 p1,2 “City discusses fate of ‘Triangle’ Property” Charles Wood--City official think to sell Triangle property for commercial, but it will remain a public park.
• v15, No. 32 Wednesday, April 21, 2004 p1. “City Grants Permit for New Bank” Charles Wood--City grants site development permit to Bank after P&Z would not. Allows AC Appliance 290 driveway
• v15, No. 32 Wednesday, April 21, 2004 p1,2 “HC to Review Heatherwood Applications—if Submitted” Mary Elizabeth Davis--Judge Clawson rules Heatherwood development is a subdivision and must abide by subdivision rules. Denies septic permit. Info on Heatherwood lawsuit.
• v15, No. 34 Wednesday, April 28, 2004 p1 “DSISD Hires Firms For Architectural Services” Charles Wood—for elementary school
• v15, No. 35 Saturday, May 1, 2004 p1,2 “Double L Hits Another Snag” Charles Wood--Double L denied a construction change by P&Z
• v15, No. 35 Saturday, May 1, 2004 p2. “HC Commissioners Present Plan To Brings Store to Buda” Mary Elizabeth Davis--County review plans for new Buda sporting goods store. “There are already two hotels interested in settling near the area.”
• v15, No. 36 Wednesday, May 5, 2004 p1,3 “City, Friendship Alliance Settle Lawsuit” Charles Wood--City/FA lawsuit settled. Changes made to development agreements.
• v15, No. 36 Wednesday, May 5, 2004 p1,2 “P&Z Denies Tractor Supply Permit” Charles Wood--and impervious cover variance but approved short form final plat. approved Rim Rock Ph1, sec 2; ph2, sec1; ph3, sec1. approved plat for Rutherford West Sec. 1.
v15, No. 38 Wednesday, May 12, 2004 p3,7 “HC Reviews Incentives For Buda Retailer” Mary Elizabeth Davis—Cabela’s, TIF district.

v15, No. 39 May 15, 2004 p1,2 “Tractor Supply Corp. Gets Okay From City” Charles Wood--City approves variance for Tractor Supply after P&Z denies it. Requires Tractor Supply to annex into city

v15, No. 40 May 19, 2004 p1,5 “HC Approves Plan To Bring Retail Store to Buda” Mary Elizabeth Davis--HC approves Buda store plan

v15, No. 41 Saturday, May 22, 2004 p2. photo and caption--“Community Fellowship Groundbreaking” photo

v15, No. 42 Wednesday, May 26, 2004 p1 “Dripping Springs Opens New City Street” Charles Wood--New City Street “Roger Hanks Parkway” will be site of mixed-use development. Shopping center, businesses, and apartments, and 4.5 acre pond.

v15, No. 44 Wednesday, June 2, 2004 p3 “P&Z Approves Howard Ranch Plat”-- with conditions. approved construction plans for Belterra ph2, sec 5C, 5D, 9B. Builders paying $750 per lot to park fees.

v15, No. 45 Saturday, June 5, 2004 p1 “DSISD Accepts Site For New Elementary” Charles Wood--Ribbon cutting for Belterra site Elementary School 12.5 acres.

v15, No. 45 Saturday, June 5, 2004 p1,2 “HC Cancels Tuesday Commissioners Court Meeting” Mary Elizabeth Davis--Commissioners’ Court meeting cancelled because agenda was never posted (Heatherwood neighbors had shown up).

v15, No. 46 Wednesday, June 9, 2004 p1,2 “Spring Bluff Center Nearly Finished” -- Spring Bluff Center on HWY 290 nears completion. Buildings covered in native rock. Chamber of Commerce to move in.

v15, No. 46 Wednesday, June 9, 2004 p1,3 “HC Approves Heatherwood Preliminary Plat” Mary Elizabeth Davis--Duffy drops lawsuit. County had spent $40,000 in attorney fees. County approves preliminary plat and variance. Neighbor Renfro announces “Porkalote Hog Farm.”


v15, No. 48 Wednesday, June 16, 2004 p1,3 “HC Approves Final Plat For Heatherwood” Mary Elizabeth Davis--County approves final Heatherwood plat. Neighbors oppose. Powers has business relations with Heatherwood investors.

v15, No. 48 Wednesday, June 16, 2004 p6 “Hays County Group To Discuss Builder Liability” --Home Builders Association of HC discuss “builder liability and how to avoid litigation”

v15, No. 50 Wednesday, June 23, 2004 p1 “Approval Process Catches Church Off Guard” Charles Wood--Sunset Baptist Church plans to expand building council does not approve right away.

v15, No. 51 Saturday, June 26, 2004 p4 “Letters to the Editor” Dorothy Blue, Bruce Renfro—Heatherwood angry citizen *2.

v15, No. 52 Wednesday, June 30, 2004 p2,3 “Councilmen Unhappy At Belterra Over Lighting” Charles Wood--Belterra light pollution but council passed plats. City approved final plat and construction for Howard Ranch Development.
v15, No. 53 Saturday, July 3, 2004 p1 “HC Approves San Marcos Annexation” Mary Elizabeth Davis—HC allows San Marcos to annex property, along Centerpoint Road and near Hunter Road, where development is.

v15, No. 53 Saturday, July 3, 2004 p3. “DS Library Receives Grant for Expansion Plans” --Library gets grant from LCRA and PEC to expand

v15, No. 55 Saturday, July 10, 2004 p2. “Hays County HBA To Get Update on TRCC”--Meeting announced. HBA to get updates from TAB (TX association of Builders) and TRCC (TX Residential Construction Commission).

v15, No. 58 Wednesday, July 21, 2004 p1,2 “Commissioners Approve Road Expansion” Mary Elizabeth Davis--for access to Cabela’s in Buda

v15, No. 60 Wednesday, July 28, 2004 p4 “Letters to the Editor” Lewis Bullard—citizen upset about “Infrastructure upgrades” for Cabela’s.

v15, No. 61July 31, 2004 p1,2 “Judge Throws Out S.O.S. Lawsuit” Charles Wood--Judge dismisses S.O.S. lawsuit against city and Belterra and Cypress Hays Realty because SOS does not own DS property. (4700 new homes). SOS plans to appeal.

v15, No. 61July 31, 2004 p1 “P&Z Holds Hearing On Interim Plan” --Moratorium. P&Z holds meeting, makes public the city’s Interim Comprehensive Plan (to update ordinances)

v15, No. 61July 31, 2004 p2. “Clarification On Cabela’s Story” --use of taxes for Cabela’s.

v15, No. 62 Wednesday, August 4, 2004 p1,2 “DS Okays Sunset Canyon Baptist Expansion” Charles Wood-- with conditions.

v15, No. 62 Wednesday, August 4, 2004 p1,2 “DS Seeks Input On Interim Plan” Charles Wood--Moratorium, City posts Interim Plan on internet and city hall.

v15, No. 62 Wednesday, August 4, 2004 p1,3 “P&Z Approves Spring Creek Plat” Charles Wood--preliminary plat, Spring Creek development, 286.4 acres. Entire project 740 acres. approved final plat Reunion Ranch, sec 1. 525 acres. approved site development permit for Hidden Hills Plaza 3.2 acres. approved a short form final plat for SR33 subdivision (33.89 acres).

v15, No. 62 Wednesday, August 4, 2004 p4 “Letters to the Editor” Lewis Bullard—Bullard still angry about Cabela’s.

v15, No. 63 Saturday, August 7, 2004 p1,2 “Funds Sought For City Planner” Charles Wood--Interim plan (to keep local development from “spinning out of control”) discussed. Accepting donations for Land Use Planner.

v15, No. 64 Wednesday, August 11, 2004 p1 photo and caption--“Almost Finished”--Tractor Supply corporation store almost finished.

v15, No. 65 Saturday, August 14, 2004 p1 “City Approves Spring Creek Plat” Charles Wood--City Council approves preliminary plat for ph. 1 of Spring Creek development

v15, No. 66 Wednesday, August 18, 2004 p2 “Commissioners Review AG Opinion On Heatherwood” Mary Elizabeth Davis--Attorney General’s opinion is Heatherwood is a subdivision.

v15, No. 66 Wednesday, August 18, 2004 p10 “Drippin Denies Belterra Request for Sign Variance” Charles Wood—other news:P&Z approved site development permit for Hidden Hills Plaza; approved short form final plat for SR33, SR22, final plat for
• v15, No. 69 Saturday, August 28, 2004 p1,3 “HC Takes No Action on Heatherwood Lawsuit” Mary Elizabeth Davis – Settlement proposed, Jim Powers says they’re still talking. Carter believes the County will win the lawsuit.

• v15, No. 69 Saturday, August 28, 2004 p4 “Letters to the Editor” – “Commissioner Addressed Heatherwood Issues” Russ Molenaar.

• v15, No. 69 Saturday, August 28, 2004 p5. “Sunset Canyon Baptist Church to Hold Groundbreaking Aug. 29” – expansion and renovation project.

• v15, No. 70 Wednesday, September 1, 2004 p1,2 “P&Z Denies Tractor Supply Sign Variance” Charles Wood – Tractor Supply agrees not to place one sign in order to please neighbors, but requests a larger sign on other side of the store. Commission deadlocked on the vote.

• v15, No. 70 Wednesday, September 1, 2004 p4,8 “Letter to the Editor” Charles O’Dell of HaysCAN displeased with Molenaar letter of previous week regarding Heatherwood.

• v15, No. 71 Saturday, September 4, 2004 p3,4 “P&Z Holds Interim Plan Public Hearing” Charles Wood – plan sets up two committees to direct the city when it develops and amends ordinances. moratorium will expire in November. Other P&Z news: approved construction plans for Reunion Ranch, sec 1. approved construction plans for Maderas subdivision, which was recently annexed into the city. approved short form final plat for Magic Greens Subdivision. approved site development permit for Wizard Academy.

• v15, No. 72 Wednesday, September 8, 2004 p1 “Construction Starts On DS Library Addition” Charles Wood – DS Community Library to add Children’s wing. $50,000 still needed to complete the building. Some funds donated by LCRA, Brown Foundation, North American Title Company, Security State Bank

• v15, No. 72 Wednesday, September 8, 2004 p4,5 “Letter to the Editor” – Friendship Alliance responds to Molenaar’s letter regarding Heatherwood.

• v15, No. 73 Saturday, September 11, 2004 p1,2 “Intermediate ‘Gym’ Now Completed” Charles Wood – 5 years ago construction funds ran out, but construction finished in time for start of school.

• v15, No. 73 Saturday, September 11, 2004 p1,3 “County Approves Budget” Mary Elizabeth Davis – other county business: commissioners pull from the agenda an executive session meeting to discuss Papalote Homes lawsuit.

• v15, No. 74 Wednesday, September 15, 2004 p1 “DSISD Facility Task Force Resumes Work” – 3 percent increase in District growth. Considering new school facility to accommodate growth

• v15, No. 74 Wednesday, September 15, 2004 p4 “Letters to the Editor” – Lewis Bullard concerned about Heatherwood lawsuit and settlement out of court.

• v15, No. 75 Saturday, September 18, 2004 p1,2 “HC Offers Lawsuit Settlement” Mary Elizabeth Davis – Regarding Heatherwood Open Meetings lawsuit. Carter casts only negative vote.

• v15, No. 76 Wednesday, September 22, 2004 p1,8 “Council Compromises With Tractor Supply” – regarding sign variance. In other city business: public hearing on
city’s Interim Comprehensive Plan. approved construction plans for Reunion Ranch, sec1. approved construction plans and final plat for Las Maderas Subdivision. Approved short form final plat for Magic Greens Subdivision, approved site development permit for Wizard Academy. public hearings for annexation requests

- v15, No. 76 Wednesday, September 22, 2004 p1,2 “County Considering ‘Tax Increment Financing’ Instead of Sales Taxes” Mary Elizabeth Davis—in Kyle along I 35. Possible businesses attracted include Wal-Mart and Home Depot.
- v15, No. 77 Saturday, September 25, 2004 p1,2 “Hays County Increases Taxes” Mary Elizabeth Davis—other county business: approved preliminary plans for Hill Country Estates. approved variance for Kelly’s Country Subdivision.

Historic/Museum
- v14, No. 94 Saturday, November 22, 2003, p1, “DS Commemorative Plate Available” – Friends of the Pound House make 150th anniversary plate.
- v15, No. 9 Saturday, January 31, 2004 p1 “Program On Historic Districts Set For Febr. 5” -- Historic Districts program set.
- v15, No. 12 Wednesday, February 11, 2004 p1,2 “DS Considers Historic Preservation District” Charles Wood—will be considered in March, may get CLG (Certified Local Government) funds.
- v15, No. 18 Wednesday, March 3, 2004 p1,3 “Dr. Pound Pioneer Farmstead to Open Saturday” – historic museum, Pound house.
- v15, No. 26 Wednesday, March 31, 2004 p1 “Pound House To Host Pottery Demonstration On Saturday”
- v15, No. 27 Saturday, April 3, 2004 p4. photo and caption “Veterans Plaque” -- Triangle property memorial
- v15, No. 34 Wednesday, April 28, 2004 p2 photo and caption—Pound House Event.
- v15, No. 44 Wednesday, June 2, 2004 p1 “DS Dedicates Veterans Monument” --Vet Monument dedication in Triangle
- v15, No. 47 Saturday, June 12, 2004 p1 photo and caption “Pound House Fun”
- v15, No. 58 Wednesday, July 21, 2004 p1 photo and caption “Texas Swing Event Raises Over $50K for Pound House Museum”
- v15, No. 67 Saturday, August 21, 2004 p1 “Fall Fest Planned for Sept. 25 at Pound House”
- v15, No. 77 Saturday, September 25, 2004 p2 “ACE In the Hills Designates Tuesday To Benefit Pound Pioneer Museum” – ACE to give 10% of Sept 28 sales to the farmstead.
- v15, No. 79p1,3 “P&Z Approves Headwaters Development” Charles Wood – cluster concept residential area, formerly known as Hazy Hills. 1,509.68 acres with 1000 homes, and 1022 acres of public space. Received 32 variances.
Parks and Recreation

- v14, No. 101 Wednesday, December 17, 2003, p1,3 “Wimberley To Announce Plans To Acquire Blue Hole” -- Blue Hole Waterpark and Wastewater treatment to be acquired by Wimberley was to be used for residential property.
- v15, No. 8 Wednesday, January 28, 2004 p1,3 “HC offers $700,000 For Blue Hole Purchase” Mary Elizabeth Davis
- v15, No. 27 Saturday, April 3, 2004 p1,2 “Westcave: Drippin’s Best-Kept Secret” Charles Wood--feature story, Westcave preserve and guided tours
- v15, No. 29 Saturday, April 10, 2004 p1 photo and caption --info on Hamilton Pool natural area.
- v15, No. 44 Wednesday, June 2, 2004 p1,2 “HC Awards &150K To Camp Ben McCulloch” Mary Elizabeth Davis--Hays County awards $150,000 for Camp Renovations and Camp Ben McCulloch and other park news.
- v15, No. 46 Wednesday, June 9, 2004 p4. “State Parks Offer Affordable Vacation Opportunities” Jeff Wentworth--Senator on State Parks.
- v15, No. 62 Wednesday, August 4, 2004 p1,3 “HC Offer $250K For Buda Park” Mary Elizabeth Davis--County commissioners offer $250,000 for Buda’s Sportsplex Park (72 acres). “Planners hope to bring trails, enhanced wetlands, a pavilion, benches, picnic tables, playground equipment, soccer fields, and baseball and softball fields to the park.”
- p1,5 “Park Named For DPS Trooper Opens in Kyle” Mary Elizabeth Davis – Randall Wade Vetter Park.
- v15, No. 70 Wednesday, September 1, 2004 p1 “Music Event to Benefit Camp Ben” – David Kyle celebrates birthday with fund-raiser to renovate Camp Ben McCulloch.

Agriculture

- v14, No. 93 Wednesday, November 19, 2003, p1 Photo and story “DS Stock Show is a Big Success” – Show held Nov 15, had 500 entries. Information about livestock champions.
- v14, No. 95 Wednesday, November 26, 2003, p4 “Ag Dept. Seed Money Will Help Rural Texas Bloom” Senator Jeff Wentworth--Agriculture information about Texas. “Texas Yes!” program
- v14, No. 97 Wednesday, December 3, 2003, p3 “PEC Makes Livestock Show Contributions” – donates $13,000 to area shows.
- v15, No. 5 Saturday, January 17, 2004 p1,2 “County Stock Show Begins” – to be held in San Marcos.
- v15, No. 6 Wednesday, January 21, 2004 p1 Photo and Caption “Stock Show Time” – Youth getting ready for HC Livestock Show.
- v15, No. 7 Saturday, January 24, 2004 p1,2 “Dripping Springs Youths Excel In Horse Show” – at the HC Livestock show. 22 entries of the 44 entries were from Dripping Springs.
- v15, No. 8 Wednesday, January 28, 2004 p1,2,3 “Students Win Big At Annual Stock Show” Mary Elizabeth Davis—two pictures on front page, 3 pictures on page 2.
• v15, No. 9 Saturday, January 31, 2004 p 6,7, 12 “Dripping Springs Fares Well During 2004 Hays County Livestock Show” – story on award winners. Three pages worth of pictures.
• v15, No. 13 Saturday, February 14, 2004 p3 “Drippin’ Youths Make Great Showing In HC Breeding Goat Show” – 4-H and FFA winners.
• v15, No. 16 Wednesday, February 25, 2004 p8 “Poultry Disease Detected in Gonzales County”
• v15, No. 37 Saturday, May 8, 2004 p2,4 “DS Girls Win Ag Awards”—FFA and 4-H members participate and win in Texas Club Lamb Association
• v15, No. 53 Saturday, July 3, 2004 p5 “Dripping Springs 4-H Program Has Successful Year in 2003-2004” Colby Maron—has fundraisers to raise money for Ronald McDonald House.
• v15, No. 55 Saturday, July 10, 2004 p1,2 “Barsana Dham Peach Orchard Has Bumper Crop” Charles Wood--Barsana Dham U-Pick peach orchard invites visitors.
• v15, No. 60 Wednesday, July 28, 2004 p1,2 “DS Horse Ranch Continues Ancient Art” Charles Wood--Feature Story about Red Horse Ranch.
• v15, No. 70 Wednesday, September 1, 2004 p1,8 “Local Woman Fosters Needy Horses” Charles Wood – Lone Star Equine Rescue. Robin Anderson of DS has adopted 2 and fostered over 20.

Community Education/Survey/ “The Project”
• v14, No. 93 Wednesday, November 19, 2003, p1 “Lecture on Water Quality is Dec. 10” Charles Wood -- LCRA pipeline, water quality standards, lecture.
• v14, No. 93 Wednesday, November 19, 2003, p10 Photos of stock show champions.
• v14, No. 100 Saturday, December 13, 2003, p1,6 “Envision Central Texas Announces Survey Results” --Survey, public opinions about land use, and quality of living.
• v15, No. 6 Wednesday, January 21, 2004 p1,2 “DS To Jump Start Regional Planning Effort” Charles Wood -- “Project” news. Purcell thinks plan is taking too long.
• v15, No. 14 Wednesday, February 18, 2004 p1,2,3 “‘Project’ Accepts Sample Regional Plans” Charles Wood -- “The Project” Regional planning commission progresses. S.O.S and project hires consultant.
• v15, No. 39 May 15, 2004 p1,2 “ECT Gives Out Results Of Survey” Mary Elizabeth Davis--ECT survey reviewed. “Results of the 18 question survey showed that HC residents consider water availability, transportation needs, development, housing, quality of life, cost of living, and air quality as being of prime importance to them . . . They listed health care, farm land preservation . . . as not being as important as other issues.”
• v15, No. 42 Wednesday, May 26, 2004 p1,3 “Resident Questions ECT Regional Planning Survey” Mary Elizabeth Davis--San Marcos resident criticizes ECT survey as unscientific.
• v15, No. 45 Saturday, June 5, 2004 p1,2 “First Stakeholders’ Meeting Set For
Tuesday” Charles Wood--“The Project.” (Stakeholder categories). Regional Water
Quality Plan.
• v15, No. 47 Saturday, June 12, 2004 p1 “Citizens Attend First Stakeholders Meeting”
Charles Wood--Seventy people show up for Stakeholder’s meeting. represented:
property owners, development interests, neighborhood interests, public interest
organizations, environmental and local interests, government entities, economic
interests, non-affiliated concerned citizens.
• v15, No. 50 Wednesday, June 23, 2004 p1,2 “Stakeholder Meeting Is June 30”--
Stakeholder meeting announcement
• v15, No. 54 Wednesday, July 7, 2004 p1,2 “Stakeholders Choose Representatives”
Charles Wood--Project Stakeholders meeting held. 95 people attend. (Barton Springs
Portion of Edwards Aquifer). makes provisional list of representatives.
• v15, No. 56 Wednesday, July 14, 2004 p2 “Stakeholders Meeting Is July 21”--
Stakeholders meeting announced
• v15, No. 57 Saturday, July 17, 2004 p1,2 “Stakeholders Meeting Set For July 21 At
ACC”--Stakeholders meeting announced.
• v15, No. 60 Wednesday, July 28, 2004 p1,3 “Stakeholders Confirm Membership” --
Stakeholders have meeting, committee members confirmed.
• v15, No. 69 Saturday, August 28, 2004 p5,10 “Envision Central Texas Under New
Leadership” – previous board chair passed away.
• v15, No. 71 Saturday, September 4, 2004 p2 “Stakeholders Opt Not To Hurry Plan” –
will still give report to LCRA in December.
• v15, No. 73 Saturday, September 11, 2004 p1,3 “ECT Hires New Executive Director”
– info about director. Not much info about ECT.

Water/Waterline Development
• v14, No. 96 Saturday, November 29, 2003, p1 “LCRA Makes Progress on DS
Tower” -- LCRA water tower being built as part of Hwy 290 pipeline project.
• v14, No. 104 Wednesday, December 31, 2003, p1,5 “DS Wastewater Plant Closer To
Reality”-- Wastewater plant on land (40 acres) donated by Roberta Crenshaw
• v14, No. 104 Wednesday, December 31, 2003, p6 “LCRA Makes Progress On DS
Tower” -- LCRA tower news.
• v15, no 3 Saturday, January 10, 2004 p1,2 “City Sewer Project Hits Another Snag”
Charles Wood -- City argues with DS water supply corp. over costs of wastewater
center
• v15, No. 16 Wednesday, February 25, 2004 p2,3 “HTGCD Annual Report” Jack
Hollon--Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District report, plans, over pumping
causes serious problems, affecting quality of life, i.e., Jacob’s Well.
• v15, No. 28 Wednesday, April 7, 2004 p4. “Select Committee Immersed In Water
Issues” Jeff Wentworth--Senator News, water issues in TX.
• v15, No. 35 Saturday, May 1, 2004 p1. “LCRA Meeting Set For May 6 At DS
Primary” --LCRA plans pipeline along Hamilton Pool Rd.
• v15, No. 35 Saturday, May 1, 2004 p4. “Letters to the Editor” Linda Lowenthal, Charles O’Dell—Resident against LCRA pipeline. O’Dell comments on LCRA’s missing fees.

• v15, No. 38 Wednesday, May 12, 2004 p1,5 “Citizens Sound Off On LCRA Line Extension” Charles Wood--LCRA waterline debate. meeting in Austin and in DS. Resident Signer: “I couldn’t afford to keep it as a ranch so I had to develop it.” Hudson, Formley, 800 acres.

• v15, No. 41 Saturday, May 22, 2004 p1,2 “LCRA Delays Hamilton Pool Road Project” --to allow time for regional plan until December.

• v15, No. 43 May 29, 2004 p1,2 “County Questions LCRA Fee” Mary Elizabeth Davis--more discussion on use of LCRA fee.

• v15, No. 46 Wednesday, June 9, 2004 p1,2 “HC Okays Original LCRA Deal” Mary Elizabeth Davis—original deal to collect 6% fees from customers

• v15, No. 64 Wednesday, August 11, 2004 p1,2 “Citizens Plan For Hamilton Pool Rd. Pipeline” Charles Wood--LCRA nearing construction of Hamilton Pool Pipeline.

Nature/Environmental Conservancy
• v15, No. 1 Saturday, January 3, 2004 p1 “Commissioners Approve Grant For Recycling Center” Mary Elizabeth Davis--Recycling Center, at FM 150 and Darden Hill Road.

• v15, No. 52 Wednesday, June 30, 2004 p1,2 “HC Hires Outside Attorney” Mary Elizabeth Davis—for mitigation.

Misc.
• v14, No. 103 Wednesday, December 24, 2003, p1,2,3,12 “Setting Kids On the Right Path” Charles Wood--Feature story. Driftwood Burke Foundation boys camp.

• v15, No. 30 Wednesday, April 14, 2004 p1 “See Legends of Texas Wing at ‘Alamo’”--Alamo Movie Set open for concert, info about movie set.

• v15, No. 52 Wednesday, June 30, 2004 p1 “Fund Started For City Land Use Planner”--Dripping Springs Land Use Fund ($5000) for land use planning.


• v15, No. 76 Wednesday, September 22, 2004 p1 “City Holds Hearing to Discuss Property Tax” – 10 cents per $100 valuation.

Multiple Topics
• v14, No. 4 Wednesday, January 14, 2004 p5 photo and caption “New Bed and Breakfast”-- “Cypress Fork” Ranch with walking paths, and longhorns, llamas, donkeys and wildlife. Owner Claireen and Doyle Fellers

• v15, No. 5 Saturday, January 17, 2004 p1,3 “Polo Club Subdivision Seeks Finance Option For Golf Project” Charles Wood -- Polo Club Golf Course wastewater facility financing and “Other Business”: more discussion of Double L. Historic district proposed.
• v15, No. 33 Saturday, April 24, 2004 p1 “HC Dedicates Part of LCRA Fee to Buy Land” Mary Elizabeth Davis—to purchase open spaces.
• v15, No. 37 Saturday, May 8, 2004 p1,2 “Cluster Concept Presented to P&Z” Charles Wood-- to preserve land and still develop, called Hazy Hills, consists of 1,539.5 acres. Bosse
• v15, No. 49 Saturday, June 19, 2004 p1,2 “HC Delays Hiring Law Firm For Road and Park Projects” Mary Elizabeth Davis--HC “to hire law firm to help ensure that it complies with the Endangered Species Act when it builds roads and establishes parkland. “Mitigation Bank.”
• v15, No. 52 Wednesday, June 30, 2004 p1, 10, 11 “Regional Planners Under Serious Time Pressure” Charles Wood--“The Project” has another meeting. Feb, Dec. LCRA Henry Brooks proposes restoration after pipeline construction.
• v15, No. 57 Saturday, July 17, 2004 p1,2 “DS Extends Moratorium”--120 more days “in order to fix clerical errors, administration problems and loopholes in current ordinances.” Other city news: Parks and Recreation announces to create Master Parks Plan.
• v15, No. 58 Wednesday, July 21, 2004 p1 photo and caption “Plant Expert” – Mary Kay Pope to give program at Pound House.
• v15, No. 66 Wednesday, August 18, 2004 p1,3,5 “Oak Wilt Discovered At Pound Farmstead” Charles Wood—Specialists called in to stop spread.
• v15, No. 67 Saturday, August 21, 2004 p2 “DS To Purchase Streets From TxDot” – other city news:The city “conducted a joint workshop with the P&Z commission to discuss and analyze the first draft of the proposed Interim Comprehensive Plan.”
• v15, No. 75 Saturday, September 18, 2004 p3 “Hays County Disburses $700,000 for Blue Hole Purchase” Mary Elizabeth Davis – In other county business: court authorized the county judge to submit grant app to Office of rural Affairs for water improvement project at Cedar Oaks Mesa.

**Abbreviations**

ETJ - Extra Territorial Jurisdiction
FBC - First Baptist Church
HC - Hays County
LCRA - Lower Colorado River Authority
P&Z - Planning and Zoning
TCEQ - Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
TPL - Trust for Public Land
TxDOT - Texas Department of Transportation
UM - United Methodist
WC - Woodcreek
WISD - Wimberley Independent School District
WSCAI - by Wimberley Senior Citizens Activities, Inc.

Additionally, “AquaSource” and “AquaTexas” are the same water company--there was a name change.
Appendix E

Interview Notes
Interview #1
Conducted by: Sue Johnson and Pam Showalter
Date: 9:20 a.m. July 18, 2005
Interviewee: long-term resident, ex-academician, historian, land owner (ranch)

Owned 84 acres divided between self and sister, originally purchased by parents ~ 1950. Sister died, property went to “the boys”. As has aged, interviewee has also signed over to “the boys”, and expects activities to carry on with son.

Are making money on the land. Has cattle; hauls them around/moves them around on the properties. Feed hay when too dry for grass to grow. Undertake cedar clearing and do not allow run-off. The 1000 acres adjacent to the land are in some sort of Trust.

   1) Terraced slopes
   1) burning
   2) chipping
   3) hedgerows
   4) put in ravines
   5) seeding native grass

Problems: KRT Bluestem--non-native (King Ranch), invasive species. Hard to grow high quality grasses the cows will graze on. Agriculture is difficult, but wildlife tourism could be a money maker. However, a wildlife exemption may be vulnerable to changing politics (if someone decides you are raising pests).

Has deer fence, about 20 deer, graze differently from cattle; much wildlife.

Sustainable: 2 cows/2 calves; ag exemption; leasing is a good option; tax relief a big help.

Found an archaeological site on the property, and listed it with the State. Archaeological Conservancy has control of that little bit (3/4 acre).

Feels that in the future the land is “vulnerable”.

Archaeological Conservancy--getting extra value by keeping green space. Use as a tool.

Suggestion: Counties should provide tax relief for historical/archaeological sites to keep them from being destroyed.
Interview #2
Conducted by: Sue Johnson and Pam Showalter
Date: Summer 2005
Interviewee: Hays farmer

Farm is 36 acres; only animals are forage chickens (30-40)

Is making it financially, and is not inside the city limits.

Uses outside employees on “picking day”, when needs additional help.

Farming since 1990; mostly solvent throughout the years.

Organics: a lot more producers, now. The focus is on quality/having a market--producing fresh/local foods.

Ideas: help “start-up” farms; produce a county almanac; public dialogue--wants the dialogue, elected officials to include farms/ranches. Senses that people want information re: how to support local agriculture. Farmers/ranchers need consumer education, promotion, marketing help from the County.

Vineyards, lavender growers, “food groups” all bring money into county--need to develop more visibility!!

Consider how France markets local produce via “Appellations”--vineyards, hard cheese, mushrooms, pestos, lavender growers. If did something like that here, might bring other business to the County . . . there were three tomato packing plants in Dripping Springs in the 1930s.

Problem: “vast quantities” bias--wholesale prices are dismal.

Education and outreach is needed--it’s an economic development issue; possible to be an economic development project on the part of the government?

Re: agri-tourism: liability insurance issues; time devoted to educating the tourists who arrive; must be well-planned. Has done a farmstand from 9-1 on Saturdays, and found people very curious about the farm, asked lots of questions.

American Farmland Trust report every 2-3 years is very informative.

Government comment: need better ag extension agents. Extension agents don’t know farmers are here!! There’s a huge gap between extension agents and sustainable growers.

Other ideas: fallow deer to market; exotics/game. Sometimes there is a competitive, not cooperative, spirit among new growers. Feel they have proprietary information; the
market is perceived as limited; consider themselves “more special” -- referred to these types as “organic jerks”.

Suggestion: “Ag Preserves” -- a form of county zoning?

Did not pursue organic certification because of amount of documentation, cost, and ultimately considered the certification unclear and therefore unacceptable.
Interview #3
Conducted by: Pam Showalter and Sally Caldwell
Date: June 2007
Interviewee: Hays farmer

Survey suggestions: provide responders a link to use to fill out the survey, either through Hays County or Texas State University-San Marcos.

When mailing the initial letter, provide a postcard to see if they are willing to/or would prefer to talk by phone.

Provide questions, or some facsimile, in advance so respondents can ponder.

The County should be providing the Chambers of each city with a list of growers, so the Chambers know who/where they are!

The next stage of small-value producer farming . . . value added products, like jams. Texas A&M provides a 4-day course on canning/labeling, why not Tx State? Then, let co-ops access the big kitchens [unknown where these might be located] around the county for a nominal fee.
Appendix F

Farmers Market Notes, Pictures
August 7, 2007
San Marcos Farmers Market
The City of San Marcos provides covered space for the farmers market in a large parking lot next to railroad tracks. The location is removed from any of the city’s main roads and its existence is not advertised by means of signs along those roads (e.g., there are no signs pointing the way to the market from those roads). Consequently, passersby who might be interested in exploring the market can drive by within sight of it but not be aware of its existence due to the secluded location. We questioned vendors about the lack of signage and were told the city’s sign ordinance prevented them from advertising off the property.

City’s represented by vendors included Seguin, Stockdale, and San Marcos. We spoke with Cliff Caskey of Caskey Orchards (San Marcos), who was the County Agricultural Extension Agent in 1977 and is currently an agricultural consultant and farmer. He said the farmers need help from the City promoting the farmers market; people don’t read the local paper, so advertising the market there is of little use. He also indicated advertising on local radio or TV would have limited success reaching those who would be most likely to visit the market.
The main road through Wimberley is Ranch Road 12; FM 2327 veers off RR 12 as it travels north through the middle of the city. The Wimberley Farmers Market is located off FM2327 in one of the Lions parking lots across from the large Lions Flea Market acreage, and is open once a week on Wednesdays from 2-6 pm. On this day, there were only three vendors, one a local bread maker, a Hays County farmer (Montesino) and another farmer from the “Hill Country”. The size of this market is consistently on the small side – both authors live in Wimberley and have the chance to observe and/or visit the market on a regular basis. It was during our research visit to this market that we were advised that conventional mail or phone survey instruments would meet with little success/response from Pocket Farmers.

We were also told that signage was a problem (similar to the situation in San Marcos, there are no signs on RR12 indicating the market’s existence on Wednesdays) and that the city’s ordinances were considered “adversarial”.
The Buda Farmers Market was the smallest one we examined, consisting of a single vendor. When the vendor was identified as a “middleman” (they did not know where their produce originated), we concluded the interview.