

BRYAN CELEBRATES NATIONAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WEEK 2014

The City of Bryan celebrated National Community Development Week and the 40th anniversary of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) April 21-25th with several events targeted to strengthen partnerships in the community and to provide information about the importance of the impact of federal community development funds locally. National Community Development Week is an annual event that provides opportunities for cities and their partners to come together to harness grassroots support for both CDBG and HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funds by showcasing projects to illustrate how these federal investments leverage private funds and volunteer hours, and serve as a catalyst by encouraging further reinvestment.



U.S. Representative for the 17th Congressional District of Texas, Congressman Bill Flores (4th from right), tours Community Development projects in Bryan and College Station with staff and officials from both cities. Spirit of Texas Bank provided bus transportation. Pictured left to right: Joey Dunn, Bryan Deputy City Manager; Kean Register, Bryan City Manager; Art Roach, Bryan Assistant Community Development Manager; Eric Barton, Bryan Construction Projects Specialist; Debbie Eller, College Station Director of Community Services; Bill Flores, U.S. Representative, Alsie Bond, Bryan Community Development Manager; Kevin Byrne, Vice President, Spirit of Texas Bank; Seth Dingas, Spirit of Texas Bank

On **Tuesday, April 22nd**, a Community Development Contractor’s Workshop Breakfast was held in appreciation of the contractors providing services to Bryan’s Community Development Department. The workshop included orientation training on Section 3, CDBG policies, and Fair Housing. Also, at the Tuesday evening City Council Meeting, Bryan’s Community Development staff was recognized by the mayor, who read a Joint Proclamation with the City of College Station recognizing National Community Development Week.

Wednesday, April 23rd was a “Partner’s Thank You” lunch, including local non-profit agency CDBG recipient partners, developers, city officials from both Bryan and College Station, as well as HUD Community Planning and Development officials from the Houston Regional Field Office. The Mayor of

the City of College Station, Nancy Berry, and mayor *pro tempore* of the City of Bryan, Ann Horton, read the Joint Community Development Week Proclamation. Also, Wednesday evening, a public meeting of the Community Development Advisory Committee was held for residents to provide input regarding community needs and to learn about ongoing projects being funded by the CDBG and HOME grants.

The week culminated on **Friday April 25th** with a joint tour co-hosted by the City of Bryan Community Development Department and the College Station Community Services Department. U.S. Representative for the 17th Congressional District of Texas, Bill Flores, along with staff and officials from Bryan and College Station, toured Community Development funded projects in both cities, including College Station's Lincoln Center, the Bryan/College Station Community Health Center and Prenatal Clinic, a nearly-completed residential reconstruction in Bryan, as well as viewing many other residential developments and public facilities funded through the CDBG and HOME grants. Appreciation was expressed to Spirit of Texas Bank for providing bus transportation to the project sites.

The City of Bryan's Community Development Services Department administers the City's CDBG and HOME programs which provide several housing programs designed to preserve and increase the affordable housing stock, upgrade low to moderate income neighborhoods, and improve living conditions. These federal funds are available to cities with more than 50,000 residents and are designed to support programs which benefit low to moderate income citizens and special needs populations, such as the elderly and disabled. In addition, the City finances eligible non-profit recipients which provide health and human services directly to clients through a joint process with the City of College Station on an annual basis utilizing CDBG funding, and together are the 2nd largest source of funds for qualified non-profit agencies in the area.



Celebrating 40 Years of Building Strong Communities Through CDBG

See additional NCD Week photos here: <https://flic.kr/s/aHsjXrWWBG>