Mayor's Message

Dear Citizens of Conroe:

It is a pleasure to present the 2011 State of the City Annual Report, which highlights the City of Conroe. Our responsibilities and goals have been challenged even more with the present economic climate. Your council, city staff and employees are working diligently to make Conroe one of the best overall cities in Texas.

Our current challenges center on maintaining fiscal responsibility in these very uncertain times. Conroe has been blessed with tremendous growth over the last decade and the best is yet to come. We continue to face new challenges for infrastructure, fire, police protection, roads/transportation, annexation and many other issues.

Our goals remain unchanged. In a competitive world, we need a friendly atmosphere towards corporate America in order to create new jobs for Conroe, while continuing our efforts to provide a well-rounded and complete Quality of Life environment for our citizens. We are challenged to do all of this, yet remain focused on taxes and budgets. Conroe has the second lowest tax rate in Southeast Texas for cities our size.

TEAMWORK: The city’s administration, staff and employees are to be commended and recognized for their continued spirit of cooperation and teamwork. Only by working together can we maintain all of this while building for our future… making tomorrow better than today.

Hope is a good thing and hopefully the future will bear more Good News for our great city. You, the citizens, are our greatest asset. Thank you for allowing me to serve you as your Mayor; it is truly an honor.

May we all remain blessed,
Mayor Webb K. Melder
City Administrator’s Message

This has been a year that tested our city’s ability to adapt and grow. The Mayor, City Council and your city employees have been challenged to be flexible and innovative in fulfilling our mission: To protect and serve the citizens of Conroe and exceed their expectations.

I want to thank the Mayor, City Council and our dedicated staff who challenge through careful financial stewardship by continuing our long-range programs while maintaining and improving our city’s physical infrastructure and services. Conroe continues to grow in population evidencing its continued reputation as a place to live, raise families and do business.

I hope this annual report will help you find how the City of Conroe can be of assistance, and that your experience with the City will be a productive and positive one.

Please visit our website for additional information about Conroe at www.cityofconroe.org

Paul Virgadamo, Jr.
Bauer Manufacturing
Going green is the goal for Bauer Manufacturing. High efficiency lighting and air conditioning systems reduced energy use and electric bills. This company received an incentive check of more than $66,000 from Entergy Texas Commercial Solutions Program which offers technical and financial assistance to help customers identify opportunities to improve energy efficiency and implement upgrade projects. New systems saved more than $66,000 from the Entergy Texas Commercial Solutions Program. Entergy states, “We are all excited about this addition to our energy efficiency program portfolio.” The projects completed are exactly the type of efficiency projects the Commercial Solutions Program was created to encourage.
- Land donated for the new Lone Star College Conroe Center by the Greater Conroe Economic Development Council.
- Plans for approximately 3,000 students with 83,000 sq. ft. of learning space in two buildings. The larger building will have 67,000 sq. ft. that will include 8 computer labs, 12 general classrooms, a large biology lab and specialized classrooms for programs such as phlebotomists and nurse assistants. A second building will have 16,000 square feet for Industrial Programs.
- Hunting Energy Services Inc., with 38,000 sq. ft., plans to expand business in Conroe by assembling and repairing rental tools for oil and gas drilling. The economic impact will have taxable assets in year seven of $24,328,987.
- JYOTI AMERICAS, LLC provides turnkey solutions in the field of High Voltage Power Transmission Lines and Substations. Estimated hiring of 157 employees will take place. Based out of Mumbai Maharashtra, India, this company employs 1,400 people worldwide.

Conroe continues to expand growth having significant impact on our commerce and economy.
Conroe Comprehensive Plan
The development of the Comprehensive Plan includes key persons such as community leaders, civic and neighborhood organizations, along with community service organizations, business and industry leaders, major landowners, developers and other community members who are essential in the development of our Plan. The planning process provides a chance to look at programs for neighborhoods, housing, economic development and provision for public infrastructure and how these concerns may relate to one another.

Planning allows the City to proactively manage future growth and development. The Conroe Comprehensive Plan involves community discussion about future growth and what is best for the community relating to quality of life. The Plan is intended to serve all interests of the community. City departments such as Public Works, Community Development and the Capital Projects Division work closely in completing projects according to the guidelines of the Comprehensive Plan.
Annexations add to the size of our City.

Pump Maintenance at the Water Treatment Plant

Dugan Area Drainage Work
Smart Growth, Open Spaces

With Conroe comes many green, open spaces benefiting citizens and visitors.

Carl Barton, Jr. Park welcomes young and old. Amenities include walking trails, a pond, a playground, a pavilion and numerous athletic fields.

The C.K. Ray Recreation Center is getting a new face-lift and will have many interesting and exciting activities to become involved in, along with the wonderful aquatic facilities at Candy Cane Park.

Heritage Place, located on 500 Metcalf St. (formerly Collins St.) in Downtown Conroe, offers many exciting events including the Conroe Christmas Celebration held the first Friday and Saturday of December.

The newest park addition will be John Burge Park at Shadow Lakes, an inviting environmental park filled with many species of birds, trees, walking trails, pavilion and a playground. One unique feature will be a rain water harvesting system. Other park renovations scheduled for 2011 include Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Sports Park and Kasmiersky Park.

The Parks and Recreation Department is ready and waiting for everyone to come out and experience relaxing, fun leisure activities. For more information, go to www.cityofconroe.org and click on Parks and Recreation for an overall view of everything they have to offer.
Family Picnic at Candy Cane Park

The C. K. Ray Recreation Center expansion and renovation will be ready to welcome everyone in 2011.

Carriage Rides Downtown

Conroe Christmas Celebration

Sustainable Future
For the Fiscal Year 2010-11 Adopted Budget, revenues totaled $97.1 million, which included the following:

### Beginning Fund Balance
- $41.1

### Revenues (in Millions):
- **Property Taxes**: $14.4
- **Gross Receipt Taxes**: 4.1
- **Sales Tax Collections**: 28.1
- **Other Taxes**: 1.1
- **Licenses and Permits**: 1.4
- **Charges for Current Services**: 24.3
- **Traffic and Criminal Fines**: 2.8
- **Other Revenues**: 2.2
- **Intergovernmental Revenue**: 1.4
- **Transfers In**: 17.3

### Total Revenues
- $97.1

### Total Resources
- $138.2
Where the Money Goes

Debt Service 17%
General Government 18%
Non-Departmental 19%
Public Safety 24%
Public Works 14%
Culture and Recreation 5%
Community Development 3%

For the Fiscal Year 2010-11 Adopted Budget, expenses totaled $99.7 million, which included the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Resources</th>
<th>$138.2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expenditures (In Millions):</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>General Government</td>
<td>$18.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Safety</td>
<td>24.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Works</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Departmental</td>
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<tr>
<td>Debt Service</td>
<td>16.5</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenditures</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Ending Fund Balance** $38.5

NOTE: Total expenses exceed total revenues due to several one-time purchases from accumulated reserves.
Lean & Green Practices

Priorities for the City of Conroe are conserving time, energy, water, and a successful recycling program. *Conroe Lean and Green* is an internal program that employees follow in their work for the city by building efficiency through teamwork, time-management, financial stewardship and more innovative and creative solutions.

*Water conservation* is a top priority for the city. Public information can be found on the city website at [www.cityofconroe.org](http://www.cityofconroe.org). Click on the *Water Conservation* button for tips and information on how everyone can conserve water.

*Curbside recycling* is now in place with the city partnering with *Republic Services, Inc.* *Republic Services, Inc.* provides special blue bins with recycling “dos and don’ts” on the lid of the container.

Find special information online with the city under *Utility Billing* or call 936 522-3170. Informational materials are set up at City Hall.

Environmental hazardous materials events will be ongoing through the *Utility Billing Department*. For more information on upcoming happenings, please contact the *Utility Billing Department* at 936 522-3171.

For now and the future, by working together we can keep Conroe a green and beautiful community in which to live, work and play. ■
Sam Masiel, Utility Billing Manager, introduces the Ready to Recycle program.

Republic Services, Inc. recycling truck

Water Conservation on the move

Water Conservation education for young and old

Recycling Information at the Environmental Fair
Conroe Police Academy
The Conroe Police Department operates the Conroe Police Academy, better known as the Basic Peace Officer Academy. This intensive training program lasts approximately 23 weeks and prepares the recruits for challenging careers. The Inaugural Class I graduated 12 recruits on December 1, 2010. The Academy is being instructed in all facets of law enforcement including:

- Fitness, Wellness & Stress Management
- Professionalism and Ethics
- Professional Policing
- U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights, Criminal Justice System
- Multiculturalism and Human Relations
- Texas Code of Criminal Procedure
- Arrest, Search & Seizure
- Texas Penal Code
- Texas Traffic Code
- Intoxicated Driver / Standardized Field Sobriety Testing
- Civil Process
- Alcohol Beverage Code
- Health and Safety Code – Controlled Substances Act
- Family Code – Juvenile Procedures
- Written Communications
- Use of Force and Mechanics of Arrest
- Spanish for Law Enforcement
- Extensive Firearms Training
- Emergency Communications / Emergency Medical Assistance / Hazardous Materials
- Family Violence / Victims of Crime / Crisis Intervention and Mental Health Code
- Communication and Problem Solving
- Professional Police Driving / Tactics for Patrol
- Criminal Investigations

For more information on the Police Academy, please log onto www.cityofconroe.org and click on Conroe Police Department.
The Conroe Fire Department is devoted to providing you the very best service and protection by the most efficient and effective means possible. This is attained through 83 dedicated professional firefighters and 5 civilian employees of the department, along with state-of-the-art emergency response equipment and an aggressive training program. Fire fighting is only one of the emergencies in which the department is prepared to respond; emergency medical calls, water rescues, aerial rescues, confined space rescues, hazardous material incidents and natural disasters are a few examples of the other types of incidents the department handles.

Our Fire Marshal’s Division is committed to service through prevention. Countless disasters, such as loss of life and/or property are averted with continuing public education programs and sound code enforcement policies.

Be assured that the Conroe Fire Department is committed to your safety, and we stand ready to serve you in your time of need.
Special Events 2011-12

- Martin Luther King Day
  January 17
- Valentine’s Day
  February 14
- Presidents Day
  February 21
- Texas Independence Day Festival & Chili Cook Off
  March 5 & 6
- Daylight Saving Time Starts
  March 13
- Montgomery County Fair
  April 8-17

- KidzFest
  April 2
- Easter
  April 24
- Memorial Day
  May 30
- Independence Day
  July 4
- Labor Day
  September 5
- Conroe Cajun Catfish Festival
  October 14, 15 & 16

- Daylight Saving Time Ends
  November 6
- Veterans Day
  November 11
- Thanksgiving Day
  Nov 24
- Conroe Christmas Celebration
  December 2 & 3
- Christmas Day
  December 25

Dates are subject to change for some events, check www.cityofconroe.org for updates.
The Conroe Christmas Celebration brought families and community out for a day of holiday fun.

For a second year the Toyota Texas Bass Classic brought people from all over the state.

Each year historic downtown Conroe brings more exciting events.

The Conroe Cajun Catfish Festival
GOLD STAR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Distinguished Budget Presentation Award – Government Finance Officers Assoc.
- Finance Dept. awarded State Comptroller’s Leadership Circle Gold Award for financial transparency.
- Municipal Court earns State Traffic Safety Award
- Tiered water rate structured for conservation
- Art Bench project completed
- Downtown Planter Program completed
- New renovations at Carl Barton, Jr. Park – 3 soccer fields, 4 softball fields, concession & restrooms, way-finding signage, additional parking & roadway
- New renovations at McDade Park – Entry Plaza, playground, landscaping, field lighting signage, additional parking & roadway
- Soup R’ Art awarded Texas Recreation & Park Society Programming Award
- Completion of Police Red Light camera project
- Top 100th Fleet Services Dept. in N. America
- 101 ASE – Automotive Service Excellence Blue Seal Facility
- Texas Chapter Fleet Professional of the Year – Rocky Mountain Fleet Mgt. Assoc.
- Completed Community Development Website
- Green Efforts – Converted the following into electronic format: Employee of the Year, Public Information Requests, Worker’s Comp reports, Civil Service Letters of Intent, Educ. Benefit Forms and installation of an employment application desk.
- Recipient of a Dept. of Energy Grant of $538,300.