

**September 18, 2007**  
**Great Things Are Happening In Tomball**

Over the last year, the Tomball Economic Development Corporation (TEDC) has invested approximately \$806,100 in retention and relocation grants to 7 companies and another \$1,520,000 in capital infrastructure improvements. That investment has created over 581 new jobs for Tomball.

Several of the newest projects for which the TEDC has provided funding assistance are:

- Relocation of Devasco International, Inc. to Tomball: Devasco International, Inc. designs and manufactures specialized welding materials and is considered a light manufacturing company. The company is currently constructing a brand new 80,000 square foot facility located at 1626 South Cherry Street. The value of the property and capital improvements is approximately \$4,648,583.00. Forty (40) new jobs will be brought to Tomball as a result of this project.
- Relocation of Specialty Steel Supply to Tomball: Specialty Steel is primarily a stainless steel distributor of stainless steel bar and plate products. The company is currently in the construction phase of an approximately 44,000 square foot facility on 12 acres, with frontage on Holderrieth Road. Specialty Steel currently employs sixteen (16) people and plans to almost double that number in five (5) years.
- Relocation of Eagle Gasket & Packing to Tomball: Eagle Gasket & Packing manufactures and fabricates plastic and rubber goods. The company will be moving its entire operation to Tomball and will be constructing a 25,000 square foot facility at 1303 Ulrich. The value of the new construction is approximately \$1,160,000.00. They will have thirty-one employees at this location.
- Infrastructure Improvements: On September 4, 2007, the Tomball City Council approved an agreement between the Tomball EDC and the City of Tomball to share the costs for improvements to the roadway, water, sewer, and gas utilities on the Rudolph Roadway and Utility Improvements Project, Segment 1. The total estimated cost for the project is \$581,000.00. The Tomball EDC will assist the City in the amount of \$290,500.00.

#### Tomball Is Experiencing Tremendous Growth

- Residential Boom: The City of Tomball is currently in the process of annexing 232 acres with the potential to bring in 789 new homes in three new subdivisions. Additionally, another 111 upscale residential units with a commercial development component are planned at the corner of FM 2920 and FM 2978. That brings the total number of new homes planned for the city in the very near future to 900, a projection which would bring the city millions in tax revenues and fees.
- Airport Annexation/Purchase: The City of Tomball is working on the possibility of purchasing the David Wayne Hooks Airport. The airport, which is located at the intersection of Stuebner-Airline Drive and FM 2920, encompasses 600 acres and includes three runways, including a seaplane landing strip. There are 478 airplanes based at Hooks, of which 27 are corporate jets. On June 15, 2007, Governor Perry signed SB 1349, which allows for the non-contiguous annexation of territory in order that the City of Tomball may move forward in the purchase of David Wayne Hooks airport. The airport would be a significant economic development tool for business attraction to the City of Tomball.
- Tomball College: 2007 fall enrollment for Tomball College is at a record high with a total enrollment of 8,483, up more than 5.5% from last year. Tomball College, along with the five other colleges that make up the North Harris Montgomery Community College District, not only provides a trained workforce for our employers, it also helps bolster the local workforce by providing local companies with customized training programs.

Location, Location, Location

Tomball's location puts the city at the center of growth in Northwest Harris County. Companies are moving away from Houston to cities such as Tomball to stay closer to their homes while keeping the convenience of working near Houston. The city's low tax rate and proximity to major interstates are also key reasons many companies choose to relocate to Tomball. Similarly, residential growth is exploding as people see that Tomball offers a superb quality of life with world class healthcare, excellent educational resources, a low crime rate, attractive downtown shopping and low property taxes.

Additionally, the construction of the SH 249 bypass, which is due to be completed by December 2007, will significantly improve mobility in the Tomball area. The bypass will provide retail locations along this portion of SH 249 with high traffic counts and a prime location. It will also stimulate residential developments to the north and northwest of Tomball as access and convenience to community amenities are improved.

Tomball has sustained prolific growth over the past decades, with a 40.4% population increase between 1990 and 2000. This explosive population and economic growth is forecast to continue in the Tomball Area, with another 52,000 people projected to move to the area by 2011. With that growth comes the need for continued residential and commercial opportunities for residents.