

City Surpasses \$1.5 M in Allocations

AUSTIN—Sales tax allocations for the City of Seminole continue to display the community's thriving economy, according to the latest figures from the Texas Comptroller's Office on Wednesday.

The City of Seminole, for sales transactions during the month of September, received an allocation payment of \$149,670.41, which brought the municipality's 2012 year-to-date total over \$1.5 million.

Texas Comptroller Susan Combs said Wednesday that state sales tax revenue in October was \$2.03 billion, up 8.2 percent compared to October 2011.

"The state's growth in sales tax

revenue continued to be led by collections from the oil and natural gas-related sectors," said Combs. "We also saw strong consumer spending drive gains in retail trade and the restaurant sector as well."

Combs will send November local sales tax allocations totaling \$611.5 million to cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts, up 5.4 percent compared to November 2011.

The sales tax figures represent September sales reported by monthly tax filers and July, August and September sales reported by quarterly filers.

According to state figures, the

City of Seminole is up 23.87-percent in allocation payments through November for the 2012 calendar year, compared the \$1.21 million received by the municipality through November 2011.

Seminole's \$149,670.41 payment for the month of November was also a 14.66-percent increase from November 2011, which saw the City of Seminole receive \$130,530.07 in allocation payments.

The City of Seagraves, according to state figures, received an allocation payment of \$20,760.68 for the month of November 2012, which is down 0.72-percent from

November 2011's allocation payment of \$20,911.87.

Year-to-date, the City of Seagraves has received \$220,311.49 in allocation payments, which is down 17.59-percent from the

\$267,363.84 received by the community through November 2011.

For details of November sales tax allocations to individual cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose districts, locate the Monthly

Sales Tax Allocation Comparison Summary Reports on the Comptroller's Web site at www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/allocsum/compsum.html.

Local / State News Briefs

Council to Meet in Monday Meeting

Four business items await members of the Seminole City Council, who will meet in their regular semi-monthly meeting Monday evening, at Seminole City Hall.

Monday's meeting, which is open to the general public, is slated for a 7 p.m.

In Monday's business portion of the meeting, Seminole City Council Members will consider changes to the City's demolition policy, the purchase of water meters, amendments to Atmos Energy's franchise agreement and consider approval of a new plat for Lonestar Estates Subdivision.

Also in Monday's meeting, Seminole City Council members will receive an update on the City's Pow Wow Room usage, and an update on the City's sewer line replacement project.

Texas Dems End GOP Stronghold

DALLAS (AP) — Texas Republicans kept their firm grip on the state Legislature, but lost their supermajority in the House of Representatives and couldn't knock off an incumbent Democrat in a key Senate race.

Redistricting had all but guaranteed Republicans would lose a few seats from the commanding 102-48 majority they held in the House in 2011 that allowed them to pass any bill they wanted through that chamber.

Democrats rebounded to reduce the Republican edge in the House to 95-55. While the GOP remains the dominant force in the Legislature, the Democrats' slight gain

could be important when negotiating combustible issues such as public education funding in the 2013 session.

In 2003, Democrats took the extreme measure of walking out to shut down the House for a week when that session dissolved into bitter partisan fights. The supermajority in 2011 allowed Republicans to push through massive cuts to education and a voter identification bill that sparked some of the session's most emotional debates.

The few extra votes also gives Democrats a little more leverage when the House speaker is chosen by the members. Speaker Joe Straus, a San Antonio Republican who has been attacked by some in the GOP as not conservative enough, will be seeking a third term.

"I look forward to working with all members of the 83rd Legislature to improve public and higher education, make our budget more transparent, maintain a strong business climate and ensure that Texas has the resources and infrastructure needed for further economic growth," Straus said.

In the Senate, Republican Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst has promised a more conservative agenda next year and will still have 19 seats in the 31-member chamber to pursue it.

But Republicans couldn't wrest a key seat in that chamber from Democrats. Sen. Wendy Davis, D-Fort Worth, won an intense fight to defeat state Republican Rep. Mark Shelton.

Under the Senate's traditional rules, a bill needs two-thirds support of the chamber, or 21 votes, to make it to the floor for a debate. Republicans were fighting for every possible seat to strengthen their position to push through

legislation.

Davis survived a tough campaign. Shelton had blasted her as too liberal for Tarrant County and filed ethics complaints against her. Davis denied any wrongdoing and accused Shelton of shilling for tea party supporters outside the district.

Davis has fought for greater spending on public education and health care for the poor. Shelton had promised to reduce the size of government and cut taxes.

"What it shows is the people in this district were able to rise above partisanship if they trust the person they are electing," Davis said.

Sen. Kirk Watson of Austin, leader of the Senate Democrats, called Davis' victory significant for Democrats.

"The issues of how we address our schools, how we address health care and issues of how we deal with women prevailed on the Democratic side," Watson said.

Democrats in Harris County also re-elected deceased Sen. Mario Gallegos Jr., who died in the final weeks of the campaign after the county had sent out mail-in ballots. In the heavily Democratic district, Gallegos won by a wide margin over Republican R.W. Bray, and Gov. Rick Perry likely will call for a special election in December to fill the seat.

Janie Rivera, 50, homemaker, said she knew Gallegos had died, but she still voted for him. She said her daughter also voted for Gallegos, as did many others from her Magnolia neighborhood east of downtown Houston.

"I had to. I hope he is not forgotten just because of his passing," Rivera said. "He is on a lot of voters' minds today."

Community Calendar

Check Dates and Times Below for All Weekly Community Happenings

SUNDAY, November 11 Veteran's Day

Attend the church of your choice.

MONDAY, November 12

- 8:00 a.m.-12 noon and 1:00-5:00 p.m.—South Health Clinic, 704 Hobbs Hwy.
- 9:00-11:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m.—Immunization clinic, South Plains Health Department, 704 Hobbs Highway. (Clinic in Seagraves every third Monday, 1:30-3:30 p.m.; open from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. the first Monday and from 7 a.m.-5 p.m. the first Tuesday of each month).
- 9:00 a.m.—Exercise class, Senior Citizen Center.
- 10:00 a.m.—Gaines County Commissioners Court, Commissioners Courtroom, Gaines County Courthouse.
- 6:30 p.m.—Masonic Lodge #957 Meal and Meeting (meeting at 7:30 p.m.), Masonic Lodge...meet 1st Monday of every month.
- 7:00 p.m.—Seminole City Council Meeting, Board Room, City Hall.
- 7:00 p.m.—Seminole ISD Board Meeting, Board Room, SISD Administration Offices.
- 7:00 p.m.—Seagraves ISD Board Meeting, Board Room, Seagraves.
- 8:00 -9:00 p.m.—Alcoholics Anonymous, CR 402K, #110.

TUESDAY, November 13

- 8:00 a.m.-12 noon and 1:00-5:00 p.m.—South Plains Health Clinic, 704 Hobbs Highway.
- 9:00 a.m.-12 noon—Seagraves shot clinic, Senior Citizen's Center, 1204 Avenue F.
- 12 noon—Seminole Lions Club, First Presbyterian Church.
- 1:30-4:00 p.m.—First Monday of the month Adult Learning Center Registration, SE 4th St.
- 7:00 p.m.—Al-Anon Group, 109 SW Ave G (First Assembly of God Fellowship Hall).
- 6:00-7:00 p.m.—Young People's Group, Gaines County Rehabilitation Center, 110 Southwest Avenue B.
- 7:00 p.m.—Al-Anon Group, 110 SW Ave B.
- 7:00 p.m.—Seminole EMT Volunteer Association. EMS building. (First Tuesday of each month).
- 7:00 p.m.—Gaines County Committee on People with Disabilities, Seminole City Hall. (First Tuesday of each month).
- 7:00 p.m.—"Wings of Glory" Chapter of the Christian Motorcycle Association, Thelma's One Stop. (Fourth Tuesday of each month).
- 7:30 p.m.—Seminole American Legion, Legion Hall, two miles west of Seminole on U.S. 180. (First Tuesday of each month).

WEDNESDAY, November 14 Chamber of Commerce Banquet

- 8:00 a.m.-12 noon and 1:00-5:00 p.m.—South Plains Health Clinic, 704 Hobbs Highway.
- 9:00 a.m.—Exercise class, Senior Citizen's Building.
- 10:00 a.m.-12 noon—Bob Lewis Mission open, 109 Southwest Avenue B. (Open each Wednesday during the same hours).
- 8:00 p.m.—Alcoholics Anonymous (Spanish), Community Rehabilitation Center, 110 Southwest Avenue B.
- 8:00 p.m.—Al-Anon, Community Rehabilitation Center, 110 Southwest Avenue B.

THURSDAY, November 15

- 8:00 a.m.-12 noon and 1:00-5:00 p.m.—South Plains Health Clinic, 704 Hobbs Highway.
- 10:00 a.m.—Llano Estacado Underground Water Board Meeting, Llano Estacado Offices.
- 12 noon—Seminole Rotary Club, First Presbyterian Church.
- 7:00 p.m.—Alcohol and other drug education group, 110 Southwest Avenue B.
- 7:00 p.m. (Mountain Time, 8 p.m. Texas Time)—Alzheimer's Disease and Related Demential Disorders Support Group meeting, Columbia Lea Regional Hospital Educational Complex Room, Hobbs. (Last Thursday of each month).
- 8:00 p.m. (Texas Time)—Gambler's Anonymous, 800 West Bender, Hobbs, N.M., First Assembly of God Church (across from Albertsons).

FRIDAY, November 16

- 8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 1:30-3:00 p.m.—South Plains Health Clinic, 704 Hobbs Highway.
- 9:00 a.m.—Exercise class, Senior Citizen's building.

SATURDAY, November 17

No scheduled activities

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