



Census estimates bump up San Angelo population

By Matt Phinney

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San Angelo's population is growing.

New U.S. Census Bureau numbers came out Thursday showing the population has increased by more than 2,000 people since the last official census count.

The census released sub-county estimates of population for July 1, 2007, including estimates of population for every county and incorporated city in Texas.

As of July 1, 2007, San Angelo's population was estimated to be 90,483, an increase of more than 2,000 since the official U.S. Census count of 88,439 people on April 1, 2000.

It's confirmation of what some have believed all along, said Phil Neighbors, San Angelo Chamber of Commerce president.

"It's encouraging just to see these numbers reflect what we believe we have seen the last few years," he said. "We need to continue and provide new jobs and retain our good quality of life here. Hopefully, we'll continue to see a modest increase in population over the next couple of years."

The increase is more than 400 people from 2006, when the city's population topped 90,000 for the first time.

San Angelo's growth represents a trend across the country for communities this size, Neighbors said. Some people have moved to San Angelo from rural areas, and many from Western states such as California and Arizona who have retired, sold their homes and moved here.

That, along with military personnel, college students as well as locals who return to San Angelo to raise a family have helped lead to the population increase.

There's also been residential and retail growth in San Angelo, and the numbers are beginning to reflect that, he said.

The bureau does a complete census every 10 years and updates the results with yearly population estimates for July 1. The estimates take a year to process.

There's already a local committee formed to make sure the 2010 official count is as accurate as possible, Neighbors said. The committee already has discovered some addresses in San Angelo that were not counted in the last count.

The U.S. Census increased its population estimates for Tom Green County this year, revising previous years' data upward and pushing the county above 106,000 for the first time in its history. According to the estimates, released in March, Tom Green County was home to 106,432 people on July 1, 2007.

Those revisions likely were because of a new method of estimating the migration of first-year college students and military personnel, a Census demographer said in March.

Tom Green County, home to Angelo State University and Goodfellow Air Force Base, benefited from that revision because under the previous methodology, many college freshmen and first-year military recruits were not included in the estimates.

"We hope to see a more accurate census than the count they had in 2000," Neighbors said. "And see continued growth between now and 2010."

Population

Following is a list of the yearly population estimates in San Angelo since the last official count.

- April 1, 2000: 88,439 (official count)
- July 1, 2000: 88,463
- July 1, 2001: 88,184
- July 1, 2002: 88,378
- July 1, 2003: 88,921
- July 1, 2004: 89,084
- July 1, 2005: 89,284
- July 1, 2006: 90,021
- July 1, 2007: 90,483

- U.S. Census Bureau July 1, 2007, population estimates.



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