

SPOTLIGHT

Duncanville

Issue 1 - December 2015

Improving Our Park System:



The Parks and Recreation Department strives to provide quality recreation programs and events for all ages, while also providing a park system that enhances the beauty of our community and provides outdoor recreational opportunities for our citizens.

The past year has seen many improvements to our parks including a new shade canopy for the Poe-Hobdin Amphitheater at Armstrong Park, and a new playground and restroom at Red Bird Park. The City also added a designated bike lane on Hill City Drive linking Lakeside Park and Red

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Water and Wastewater Rates – Why the Increases?

The City of Duncanville's water utility fund operates as a stand-alone business or "enterprise" fund, meaning that the costs to provide treated drinking water and collect and dispose of raw sewage, are paid for by the revenues collected through the sale of water and the charges for sewer to the residents and businesses of Duncanville. This fund supports the costs to:

- Purchase 3,467 billion gallons annually of treated water from the City of Dallas.
- Collect and pump 2 million gallons a day of raw sewage to the Trinity River Authority (TRA) Ten Mile Creek Wastewater Treatment Facility and Central Regional Wastewater System.
- Maintain and/or replace more than 250 miles of underground water pipe and 150 miles of wastewater pipe; and 1,408 fire hydrants.
- Maintain three (3) elevated and four (4) ground water storage tanks that hold 14.5 million gallons of water.

The General Fund (funded mainly from property taxes and sales taxes) does not support the water fund, nor vice versa. The water fund does not pay for police or fire services, streets or parks, the Fieldhouse, etc.

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Be Prepared for Upcoming Inclement Weather

December through February are considered our winter months with the possibility of icy weather developing in our area. As a result, fire hazards increase. The Fire Department encourages the community to be aware of possible ignition sources for fire such as overloaded power extension cords, unattended burning candles, and smoke alarms with expired batteries.

It is best to be prepared for upcoming inclement weather. The National Weather Service (NWS) provides alert and warning information from several sources. The City offers immediate emergency notifications to our citizens through Everbridge. Sign up today! Find out about these and other resources by calling us at 972-780-4920, or by visiting our web site at duncanville.com/fire. We are always here to help!

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In order to maintain a healthy water utility fund, it is critical and required by City Financial Policies, to maintain a minimum 60-day reserve fund (or fund balance). An adequate reserve fund provides assurance for unanticipated major emergency repairs, seasonal or annual fluctuations in the amount of water sold (dry years versus rainy years), or even significant reductions due to water conservation during times of drought. The costs to operate the water system do not significantly change with the amount of water sold, unlike a business that can reduce its output and costs when sales drop. The costs for contracted quantities of water and the costs to maintain and operate the required infrastructure, are largely independent of the actual amount of water pumped and sold, and consequently, the amount of revenue collected to pay for it.

In recent years, cost increases from the city of Dallas for the purchase of treated water and from TRA for wastewater treatment have been absorbed within the water utility fund with no corresponding increase passed on to the customers. The City of Duncanville did however, recently renegotiate a 30-year water contract with Dallas, saving an estimated \$500,000 each year. This was achieved through the conservation efforts of citizens, allowing Duncanville to negotiate a lower guaranteed fixed amount of water purchased from 11.0 Million Gallons per Day (MGD) to 9.5 MGD. However, even with this cost savings, the last several years of operating costs have continued to be well above revenues, resulting in deferred maintenance and a continued drop in the reserve fund balance, which was projected to end FY 2015 at 51 days operating expenses, well below the 60-day required minimum. In addition, at the current rate of expenditures for capital replacement of water and wastewater lines (\$2.6M annually), it will take 135 years to replace all of them. This is not sustainable.

In 2013, the city hired Economist.com to perform a water rate study. Based on the results of the study, in September 2014, the City Council adopted a five year water and wastewater rate plan to increase revenues over that period to adequately fund maintenance and capital improvements, and achieve an adequate reserve fund balance. Annually, the City Council

reviews the fund performance and, should the fund perform better than expected, has the ability to adjust rates or suspend the planned rate increases.

The following tables show the monthly water and wastewater increase for a user of 7,000 gallons.

Water Residential Customer Only	FY 2014	FY2015	FY2016
New Base Rate	\$7.70	\$10.00	\$12.00
Volume Rate	\$3.09	\$3.24	\$3.41
Total Monthly Fee @ 7000 gallons per month	\$26.24	\$29.44	\$32.46
Dollar Change		\$3.20	\$3.02

Sewer Residential Customer Only	FY 2014	FY2015	FY2016
New Base Rate	\$10.82	\$14.07	\$16.88
Volume Rate	\$4.62	\$6.01	\$7.21
Total Monthly Fee @ 7000 gallons per month	\$38.54	\$50.13	\$60.14
Dollar Change		\$11.59	\$10.01

While no one likes a price increase, it should be remembered that for less than a penny a gallon, you can have high quality, purified drinking water delivered to your faucet at any time of the day or night, every day of the year. Most people would think nothing of buying bottled water at an average cost of 50 cents for 16.9 ounces, the equivalent of \$3.79 a gallon; not to mention the cost of gasoline to go and buy it! Municipal water service is a bargain for a commodity that we cannot live without.

Share your ideas, and help us make your community library AWESOME!

The Library needs your feedback! Please take a few minutes to answer our Fall 2015 Survey by visiting our website at Duncanville.com/library. Hard copies of the survey can be picked up in person at the library, and returned to any library service desk. Your input will help us better serve you and your community. Thank you!

Preparations Begin for 2016

City Elections

The 2016 City Officers election will be held on Saturday, May 7th. This year's slate of offices includes Mayor as well as District 2 and 4 Councilmembers. All registered voters residing within the City of Duncanville may vote for the Mayor position. Only residents of Districts 2 and 4 may vote for their respective candidates.

Anyone that is not currently registered to vote has until April 7th to register in order to cast a ballot in the May 7th election. Voter registration applications may be obtained at City Hall or the Duncanville Public Library. Voter registration information can be found at dallascountyvotes.org.

The first day to file an application for a place on the ballot is Wednesday, January 20th. The application deadline is 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 19th. Applications for a place on the ballot will be available at City Hall in the Office of the City Secretary. Additional election information is available by calling (972) 780-5017 or duncanville.com.

Improving Our Park System

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Bird Park. This demonstration project will hopefully lead to additional bike routes throughout the city helping Duncanville become a bike-friendly community.

Within the next few months, additional improvements are planned as well. Harrington, Lakeside, and Willow Run parks will all be receiving new playgrounds for the enjoyment of our youngest citizens. Outdoor batting cages are being added to Harrington Park, and the new Hill City bike lane will be extended through Lakeside Park, connecting to Center Street.

The next year will be very important to the future of the Department with the updating of our Park Master Plan. The master plan will guide our community leaders in the future improvements to our park system. Your voice is wanted. Please join us by attending one or more of our community meetings that will be scheduled throughout the city and share your thoughts. It is imperative that our citizens' voices are heard to create the vision for the park system they deserve. Please watch for more information on this exciting endeavor.

CITY CALENDAR

December 2015

- 14: Tone & Stretch Classes for Seniors
- 15: City Council Regular Meeting Cancelled
- 21: Recreation Center Winter Camp Break begins

January 2016

- 2-3: Hype Sports "New Year Classic"
- 5: City Council Regular Meeting
- 12: District 3 Town Hall Meeting
- 19: City Council Regular Meeting
- 26: Friends of Public Library Quarterly Meeting

February

- 2: City Council Regular Meeting
- 6: Daddy/Daughter Dance
- 16: City Council Regular Meeting
- 20: Black History Celebration

March

- 1: City Council Regular Meeting
- 5-6: Top 60/60 John Lucas Combine
- 12: Household Hazardous Waste Collection
- 14-18: Recreation Center Spring Break Camp
- 15: City Council Regular Meeting
- 17: District 4 Town Hall Meeting
- 28: Easter Egg Hunt
- 22: Senior Center Open House

Visit Duncanville.com for event details!

Delivering Toys this Holiday Season



The Duncanville Police Department and Police Association has kicked off its 2015 Santa Cop toy drive. Help us deliver toys to children in need within the community by donating a new unwrapped toy or cash donation at the Duncanville Police Department, located at 203 E. Wheatland Road. Donations are accepted year-round.

Nominations for a limited number of needy children or families are accepted from City, Police Department, and Duncanville Independent School District employees. Due to the volume of requests, nominations cannot be accepted from individuals nor is self-nomination permitted. The DPA verifies city residency and need. A final determination of the neediest families is made by the Santa Cop Committee. For more information: 972-780-5027 or dsisk@duncanvillepd.com.



Duncanville
City of Champions

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Duncanville, Texas 75052

Enhancing Our Citizens' Quality of Life

In the past year, the Public Works Department has conducted improvements to essential services to enhance the quality of life of its citizens. The litter crew was



expanded, doubling its workload capacity to maintain the city's overall appearance. An

OPTICOM traffic signal pre-emption system was installed for emergency vehicles moving through signalized intersections. This system allows normal operation of traffic signals to be pre-empted by emergency vehicles, giving the emergency vehicles the right-of-way, improving safety and response times. Red left-turn signals were replaced with flashing yellow arrows, and sidewalks were repaired or installed throughout the city. Additionally, water and wastewater line improvements or installations were made at various locations, a por-

tion of the alleyway in the RedBird 4 Addition was reconstructed, and improvements were made to the North Main Street Water Tower to ensure the safety and reliability of our water system.

Of major importance was the Street Assessment & Condition Study conducted throughout the entire city. The City's pavement inventory consists of about 400 miles of asphalt and concrete streets. To effectively manage the sizable investment in streets, the city gathered data to establish a baseline rating and will use it to create a ranking for each street along with any necessary repairs and cost estimates for capital improvements. The result of this study allows us to more efficiently use our available funding, as well as coordinate repairs with water and wastewater improvements to minimize street disruption.

With the recent hiring of a new City Planner, the Department is developing a Citywide Comprehensive Plan in the coming year. A Comprehensive Plan is the link between

a community's vision and the realization of that vision. It is a process that encapsulates the vision of the community and sets public policies for zoning, land use, infrastructure, parks, transportation, recreation, economic development, and housing over the next ten to twenty years.

In 2016, a substantial amount of the comprehensive plan will be completed. Cost-effective preventative maintenance strategies to increase the useful life of the roadways and alleys will be chosen in 2016, using the information gathered and the pavement management software purchased in 2015. Initial funding of these repair strategies will be proposed in the 2016 revised budget. The pipe-bursting program will be continued, replacing or increasing in size the existing sanitary sewer lines, decreasing the number of Sanitary Sewer Overflows during periods of heavy, continued rainfall. New wireless connectivity equipment will be installed in 6 new police vehicles resulting in improved communication.