

# CHAMPION

*The Official Newsletter for the City of Duncanville*

August 2016  
www.duncanville.com



**Inside this issue: New City Vehicles and Equipment Pg. 5 • Proper Disposal Methods Pg. 6-7 • Health Screenings Pg. 11 • Upcoming Parks and Recreation Events Pg. 17-19**

## Brush Pickup in Your City

The City's garbage service vendor, Republic Services, is working diligently to pick up the high volumes of brush that are being placed at the curbs for pickup. This time of the year, brush pickup could take up to three weeks. To know when Republic may be in your area next, please contact Jessica Smith, Solid Waste Coordinator, at 972-780-4946.

To have tree and/or bush trimmings picked up, please place large piles of brush on the street curb in the following manner:

- Cut brush in lengths of 6 to 8 feet
- Stack brush loosely at the street curb
- Brush piles should be free of metal, wire, trash and/or fencing material
- Be mindful of where you place the pile to avoid damage to anything above, around and under the pile that may not be seen by the operator

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## Comprehensive Plan Kickoff

The Comprehensive Plan public engagement process is kicking off! Destination Duncanville is the City's first comprehensive plan and a critical part of plan development will be the involvement of property owners, residents, business owners, and other stakeholders in the community. The development of the Comprehensive Plan will start 'from the ground up', meaning that community involvement will be the foundation of the plan. There are multiple ways to get involved and to give input to the planning team.



**Input Boards** – There will be input boards in the foyer of City Hall, at the Duncanville Public Library, the D.L. Hopkins, Jr. Senior Center, and the Fieldhouse for citizens to write down their vision for the future of Duncanville. It is an opportunity to share where you see Duncanville in the next 10 to 20 years. Does it look exactly the same? Is it different? This is a chance to provide candid thoughts on the direction the City should go.

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**DUNCANVILLE**

The Perfect Blend of Family, Community & Business

# City of Duncanville Calendar

- August 2** City Council Meeting: 6:00 p.m. Work Session/Briefing @ City Council Briefing Room: 7:00 p.m. Regular Session @ City Hall Council Chambers
- August 4** City Council Budget Workshop: 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. @ City Council Briefing Room
- August 8** Park & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting: 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. @ City Hall Briefing Room
- August 9** Boards and Commissions Interviews: 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. @ the City Council Briefing Room at City Hall
- August 9** Social Engagement Partnership Regular Meeting: 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. @ City Hall
- August 10** Virtual Reality Innovation Commission Meeting: 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. @ City Hall Conference Room B
- August 11** Duncanville Community Economic Development Corporation (DCEDC) Regular Meeting: 6:30 p.m. @ the City Council Briefing Room
- August 11** Duncanville Senior Advocacy Commission Meeting: 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. @ D.L. Hopkins Senior Center Northside Room
- August 16** City Council Meeting: 6:00 p.m. Work Session/Briefing @ City Council Briefing Room: 7:00 p.m. Regular Session @ City Hall Council Chambers
- August 18** Duncanville Community Multicultural Commission (DCMC) Meeting: 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. @ City Hall Briefing Room
- August 18** Duncanville Sports Legacy Commission: 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. @ City Hall Conference Room 2
- August 31** Neighborhood Vitality Commission Meeting: 7:00 p.m. @ City Hall Briefing Room

Visit [www.duncanville.com](http://www.duncanville.com) for updates to this calendar.

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**Destination Duncanville Website** – As part of the plan development process, a website has been created to disseminate information, gather input, and provide updates on the progress of the Comprehensive Plan. The website, [DestinationDuncanville.com](http://DestinationDuncanville.com), will be the main source of information for those interested in keeping up on the status of the plan.

**Community Survey** – On the [DestinationDuncanville.com](http://DestinationDuncanville.com) website, is a community survey. The information in this survey will aid the planning team in becoming familiar with Duncanville, its strengths, and its weaknesses from the perspective of its everyday users. It will include questions about the importance of various quality of life aspects of the City and where the City should focus its energy and resources. This survey is voluntary, all information recorded will be kept anonymous and no record of individual responses will be transferred or implied. Your input is vital and greatly appreciated.

**Community Wide Meeting** – Perhaps the most important way to give input on the Comprehensive Plan is to attend the first community wide meeting that will be held on Wednesday, August 17, 2016 at the D.L. Hopkins, Jr. Senior Center. Check-in will begin at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be an opportunity for citizens to participate in interactive exercises and discussion facilitated by the consultant Freese and Nichols, Inc. The goal of the meeting is to walk away with a basic understanding of what the community deems as important, issue identification, and to begin formation of the overall vision of the City.

The planning team will also be meeting with various stakeholders in the community to gain further insight into specific topics to be covered in the plan including economic development and Downtown. There will also be opportunities for citizens to provide input on their own through the Meeting in a Box. The Meeting in a Box is a box of resources to allow anyone to facilitate a meeting on their own and provide the feedback to the City. More information regarding the Meeting in a Box will be provided on the [DestinationDuncanville.com](http://DestinationDuncanville.com) website and the City website.

Continues from Page 2:

The Comprehensive Plan presents an opportunity to demonstrate that Duncanville residents, businesses and elected officials are committed to working together for the best possible future for our community. It is an exciting time for Duncanville and it will require everyone's participation. Can we count you in?

Updates on the progress of the Comprehensive Plan as well as information on opportunities for public input will be provided on the City of Duncanville website as well as through the DestinationDuncanville.com website, the Spotlight Duncanville quarterly newsletter, and The Champion monthly newsletter.

# Sales Tax Revenue

Sales Tax is paid on the sales of certain goods and services. It is an important indicator of the financial viability of our community. Sales tax is one of the top revenue sources for Duncanville's general City operations and makes up 24% of the current General Fund Revenue Budget. Duncanville shoppers pay a sales tax rate of 8.25%, which is \$.0825 for every taxable \$1.00 spent. Of the 8.25% total sales tax rate, 2.0% goes to the City and 6.25% goes to the State of Texas.

**\$715,881.00** – Duncanville Sales Tax Revenue for the month of July 2016  
This is a **17% increase** or **\$104,908** more than the same month last year (July 2015)

Where does the total 8.25% sales tax go?

6.25% State of Texas

1.00% Duncanville General Fund

0.50% Duncanville General Fund for Property Tax Relief

0.50% Duncanville Community and Economic Development Corporation

8.25% Total Sales Rate

## Incentive Grant Awarded to Local Business

The Duncanville Community and Economic Development Corporation (DCEDC) recently presented Randy Gaubert, President of RPG Capital Management, LLC with a \$75,000.00 incentive grant. The grant was used to complete a screening wall, utility infrastructure, fire lane, and approach paving for Phase 2 and 3 of a medical/professional office development located at 407 W. Daniieldale Road.



Incentive grants are part of DCEDC's Design Incentive Program that is aimed at helping businesses enhance their facades and improve their sustainability. For more information on DCEDC or business incentives, please call the Economic Development Department at 972-780-5090.

*Pictured left to right are DCEDC Vice President Barry Gordon, DCEDC President Mark Cooks, RPG Capital Management, LLC President Randy Galbert, DCEDC Board Member Steve Dial, DCEDC Board Member Dr. Matt Murrah, and DCEDC Director Jessica James*

# AROUND TOWN

*July*

FANTASTIC FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION!

THANK YOU!





# City Services

## New City Vehicles and Equipment

As a part of the FY2016 Budget, the City's Equipment Services division received approval to purchase several replacement vehicles and pieces of equipment. A few have already been received including one Toro Sand Pro bunker rake, to be used by the Parks Department, as well as two V-box sand spreaders and a concrete saw for the use of the Streets Department. Vehicles received include three F-150 pickup trucks for the Equipment Services, Streets and Water Departments. One F-450 cab/chassis with a service body was also received for the Wastewater Department and one F-350 cab/chassis with a service body for the Water Department. In addition, there are six new Patrol SUV Police Interceptors in the process of having police equipment installed.

These units are a vital part of the City's operation and are essential in the day-to-day activities of the City. The vehicles and equipment are used in maintaining integrity of City streets, the quality of water, the flow of wastewater, and the protection of the citizens. The bunker rake is used in maintaining the ball fields used by citizens and athletic associations.

There are a total of twenty-one vehicles and pieces of equipment being purchased this year. The rest of the vehicles and equipment ordered are expected to arrive soon. If you have any questions regarding Equipment Services, please call Asa Low at 972-780-5062.



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- Keep piles at least 6 feet from mail boxes, utility poles, fire hydrants, cars, or any other obstructions that could potentially be damaged and/or cause a delay in service

If you only have a small amount of brush to place out for pickup, please place it in your normal trash pickup location in the following manner:

- Brush, trunks, and limbs cannot exceed 6 inches in diameter
- Stack neatly with a height not to exceed 3 feet
- Secure in bundles with a weight limit not to exceed 50 pounds
- Stack with garbage



**JESSICA SMITH**  
CROSS CONNECTION/  
SOLID WASTE  
COORDINATOR

If you have small brush piles that were not picked up with your trash, please contact Jessica Smith, Solid Waste Coordinator, at 972-780-4946.



## RESOURCES: Flood Facts

### FLOODSMART AND THE COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM

Floodsmart is the education component of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Local governments work closely with Floodsmart and the NFIP's Community Rating System (CRS) to provide tools and resources for our citizens. These tools are available online and can be used to help communities improve their CRS rating and, thereby, provide discounts on flood insurance. Utilizing and applying these free resources will ultimately lower the cost of flood insurance for City of Duncanville's residents by improving our CRS rating upon which insurance rate discounts are based.

To access these free online tools, residents can visit [Floodsmart.gov](http://Floodsmart.gov) and navigate to the Community Resources section. The tools are designed to help residents assess their flood risk and demonstrate the consequences of a flood. The dollar amount of damages can be estimated using the Cost of Flooding Tool. The most common misconception about flooding is that homeowners underestimate their risk and cost of damages. Remember, flooding is not always caused by excessive amounts of rain. So check out the Floodsmart website and learn more about the importance of flood insurance today.



### Fats, Oils, and Grease

*It doesn't stop at the kitchen sink....*

Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG), the residue left over from cooking meats, such as bacon, that hardens after it cools can cause problems when poured down the drain and clog pipes in your home. This grease also clogs the sewer pipes under the street that takes the wastewater from your home to the treatment plant. When this occurs, wastewater will back up and come to the surface, polluting the environment. This allows untreated sewage to run into the streets and into our storm drains. This is not only a human health hazard but, since storm drains flow to creeks and rivers, can cause significant environmental damage and impact aquatic life forms. You can avoid unnecessary sewer repairs, expense and damage to the City sewer system by following a few simple rules.



**Do Not Put Grease  
Down the Drain!!**



**Do Not Put Frying Oil  
Down the Drain!!**



**Do Not Put Food Scraps  
Down the Drain!!**



### Did You Know?

Duncanville residents can pick up free Fat Trapper Bags and can lids at the Duncanville Service Center, located at 330 Shady Trail, or at City Hall (Public Works Counter), located at 203 E. Wheatland Rd. (Please limit 5 per visit.)

# DEFEND YOUR DRAINS

Many products don't belong in your drains (meaning your kitchen drain, toilet drain, bathtub drain, or any other household drain). Defend your drains, defend your pipes, and defend your environment by using proper disposal methods.



TRASH IT

These items can clog pipes and cause blockages even if labeled "flushable." Throw them in the trash to prevent expensive plumbing repairs.



DISPOSE RESPONSIBLY

These products can damage your pipes and negatively impact the quality of our lakes, rivers, and streams. Visit [DefendYourDrainsNorthTexas.com](http://DefendYourDrainsNorthTexas.com) to learn how to responsibly dispose of them.

## WIPES



Wipes don't break down when flushed down the toilet.

## PAPER TOWELS



Paper towels are designed to be absorbent and strong and to not break down in water, so they will clog your plumbing.

## FEMININE HYGIENE



Pads and tampons are very absorbent and don't break down like toilet paper. They commonly cause plumbing issues.

## PERSONAL CARE



Everyday personal care products like cotton swabs and dental floss tangle up in your drains and can clog your plumbing.

## FATS, OILS, & GREASE



Your drains don't love bacon as much as you do. Recycle used cooking oil at a drop-off location.

## MEDICINES



The best medicine for your drains is no medicine. Return extra and expired medicines at take-back events.

## CLEANING PRODUCTS



Household cleaning products may clean your home but large amounts can be dangerous going down the drain. Take leftover products to the hazardous waste collection center.

## PAINT & PESTICIDES



Leftover paint and pesticides are considered hazardous waste and should be carefully taken to a hazardous waste collection center.



[www.DefendYourDrainsNorthTexas.com](http://www.DefendYourDrainsNorthTexas.com)

Wastewater  
And  
Treatment  
Education  
Roundtable

# WIPES BLOCK EVERYTHING

DefendYourDrainsNorthTexas.com

## Background:

Wipes have become quite popular over the last 20 years. Moistened towelettes are great to clean both counters and dirty hands. Make-up remover pads and facial cleaning wipes are also extremely convenient, particularly when away from home. Baby wipes have become fundamental in the diaper changing process. And the extra strength of personal wipes has become almost as popular for adults as for babies.

## The Problem:

Some of these products are sold as “flushable.” But many things are flushable - golf balls, toys, keys, jewelry, - the list goes on and on. But just because you CAN do something, doesn’t mean you SHOULD.

Since all of these products were designed to be strong when wet, almost none of them (even those labeled “flushable”) break down on their way to the wastewater treatment plant. Because they don’t break down, wipes can get tangled or twisted and caught up in your home plumbing or the sewer system, which can cause a sewage back-up in your home or neighborhood.

## The Solution:

Like golf balls, toys, keys and jewelry, there is nothing wrong with using any of these products. But don’t take a chance on an extremely unpleasant or potentially expensive sewage back up in your home. Defend Your Drains and throw used wipes in the trash instead of flushing them down the toilet!



## Not Convinced?

- Visit our Facebook page at Facebook/DefendYourDrains for a “show-down” demonstration of toilet paper and wipes versus a mixer.
- Visit the Defend Your Drains regional website for more videos about wipes, including one from Dr. Oz:  
[defendyourdrainsnorthtexas.com/news.html](http://defendyourdrainsnorthtexas.com/news.html)

## Convinced, but looking for tips on disposal?

- Put used baby wipes into the soiled diaper; enclose the wipes by wrapping them in the diaper with the clean side out; seal closed with the diaper tape/fasteners and dispose of both.
- Wrap used wipes in toilet paper and put them in the trash.
- Put used wipes in small pet waste bags.
- Line your bathroom trash can with a plastic grocery bag and empty when needed.

# Las toallitas bloquean todo

DefendYourDrainsNorthTexas.com

## El trasfondo:

Las toallitas han vuelto muy populares en los últimos 20 años. Las toallitas húmedas son ideales para limpiar los mostradores y las manos sucias. Las almohadillas para quitar el maquillaje y las toallitas limpiadoras faciales también son muy convenientes, sobre todo cuando uno está lejos de la casa. Las toallitas húmedas para bebés son indispensables en el proceso de cambio de pañales. Y la mayor resistencia de las toallitas personales es tan popular para los adultos como para los bebés.

## El problema:

Algunos de estos productos se venden como “desechable”. Sin embargo, muchas cosas son “desechables” - pelotas de golf, juguetes, llaves, joyas - la lista sigue y sigue. Pero sólo porque SE PUEDE hacer algo, no significa que usted DEBE.

Puesto que todos estos productos fueron diseñados para ser fuerte cuando está mojado, casi ninguno de ellos (incluso aquellos etiquetados “desechable”) descomponen en su camino hacia la planta de tratamiento de aguas residuales. Debido a que no se descomponen, las toallitas pueden enredarse o torcer y atraparse en la tubería de su casa o en el sistema de alcantarillado, que puede causar una obstrucción de las aguas residuales en su hogar o en el vecindario.

## La solución:

Al igual que las pelotas de golf, juguetes, llaves y joyas, no hay nada malo con el uso de cualquiera de estos productos. Pero no corre el riesgo de una extremadamente desagradable o potencialmente costosa obstrucción de las aguas residuales en su hogar. ¡Defiende sus Drenajes y tire las toallitas usadas en la basura en lugar de tirarlas en el inodoro!

**DEFEND**  
★ ★ ★ YOUR ★ ★ ★  
**DRAINS**

## ¿No está convencido?

- Visita nuestra página de Facebook en Facebook/DefendYourDrains para una demostración de la confrontación entre el papel higiénico/las toallitas y un mezclador.
- Visita la página Web regional “Defiende sus Drenajes” para más videos sobre las toallitas, incluyendo un video del Dr. Oz en: [defendyourdrainsnorthtexas.com/news.html](http://defendyourdrainsnorthtexas.com/news.html)

## ¿Convencido, pero en busca de consejos sobre el desecho?

- Ponga las toallitas de bebé en el pañal sucio; encierre las toallitas, envolviéndolas en el pañal con el lado limpio hacia fuera, ciérrelo con la cinta/los sujetadores de pañales y disponen de ambos.
- Envuelve las toallitas usadas en papel higiénico y las puso en la basura.
- Ponga las toallitas en pequeñas bolsas de desechos de las mascotas.
- Cubra su bote de basura del baño con una bolsa de plástico y se vacía cuando sea necesario.



**Sam Rohde**  
Fire Chief

# FIRE DEPARTMENT

A MESSAGE FROM CHIEF ROHDE

## Emergency Preparedness: Are You Ready?

If you turn on the television and watch the news, there is something that always strikes me, the fact that across this nation there is a tragic event occurring almost every day. From the tragic explosion in West to mud slides in Colorado, to tornadoes devastating communities. The question I always ask is: was the community prepared to deal with the event that was thrust upon them?



I try to envision events that could occur in my personal life and make a plan to survive through the crises. What do I mean by that statement? It means being responsible and prepare for anything that can be thrown at us.

So, how would you prepare? Families need to consider evacuation planning, including transportation and access to gasoline as well as timing and avenues for travel. Always remember to care for pets and livestock.

Being prepared can be costly, but it can be accomplished a little at a time. One of my most important suggestions is to develop a to-go-bag. Some important items in a bag should contain food, water, flashlight, battery radio, extra batteries, can opener, cash and credit cards, shoes, clothing, eyeglasses, contact lens solution, hand sanitizer, prescription and over-the-counter medications. These would be just a few items recommended to get started. There are commercially available to-go-bags online and in some local retail stores. I actually enjoyed shopping for the items in my bag. It almost turned into a quest to see what items I could improve on for better efficiency.

Another recommendation is to protect personal documents such as wills, deeds, credit cards, insurance information, computer passwords, itemized home inventory, and financial statements. It may be necessary to grab such documents during an emergency evacuation at a moment's notice.

As important is communication with your family. How would you communicate your status to your loved ones? How would you know where to meet? This emphasizes the importance of developing plans.

Everyone should develop a plan that will provide at least 72 hours of self-sustainment. You never know when or where the next disaster will strike. Being prepared and developing a plan can be the key to your family and yourself surviving through a tragic event.



## Did You Know?

Our citizen alert emergency notification system, powered by everbridge, will allow the City of Duncanville to send informational

messages and emergency alerts about situations as they occur. Alerts can be received on multiple devices such as home phone, mobile device, e-mail, and more. Click here to find out more information and sign up today!





# FIRE DEPARTMENT

## Back to School Health Screenings

Another year has come and gone and it is time to start thinking about the kids getting back to school. Stores have their back-to-school areas stocked and ready for us to fight our way through. One of the things that can be easy to forget during the summer months, and the back-to-school rush is the importance of health screenings. While this does sometimes include the dreaded shots, there are other components of the annual health screening that are just as important.

It is a time to find out how well your child can see. Did you know that as many as one in twenty children can't see out of one of their eyes? It is important that our children are able to see the board and/or screen in order to facilitate their learning.

Hearing is another important factor. If my children had it their way, the music and television volume would always be loud. This does affect their hearing, even if they don't believe you when you tell them it does. As you can imagine, being able to hear the teacher is just as important as being able to see the board. If there is a hearing problem detected during the health screen, it can be addressed and your child will be better equipped for learning.

Having the doctor check for any respiratory or heart problems is always important. Even if you have children that are not as active during the summer, they will be active during physical education classes at school.

This is also a good time to address any allergies or other medical needs your child may have. It is always a good idea to have these types of issues in your child's medical record in order to track changes that can occur over the years.

I would encourage all parents to further their education and research in depth about health screenings. Just go to your favorite search engine and type in "back to school health screenings."

One last thing, while you are getting doctor appointments scheduled for the kids, make sure you take the time to call your doctor as well. Your health is just as important. What better time than now to take care of yourself!



I hope you have had a great summer and are ready for another great school year!



Mike Trousdale  
Fire Marshal

# FIRE DEPARTMENT

## FIRE SAFETY AND YOUR HEALTH

Have you ever thought about how your health may affect how you react to a fire? Or how a fire might affect your health? Both are important and could affect the rest of your life. If you have respiratory, cardiac, or mobility issues, the time spent in smoky conditions trying to escape may prove deadly. Generally, you have about two minutes to escape from your residence if it is involved in fire. This two minute number takes into account that there are adequate and working smoke alarms in all sleeping areas, escape plans, meeting places, essential elements a person may need to survive an actual fire. But what if the same person has all those devices and plans but are mobility-challenged, or there are other health issues that may delay escape? There may be additional elements needed to aid in survival and escape. Here are some suggestions to have readily available in case your path is blocked by fire or smoke:

- In the room you sleep in, use towels or blankets to block smoke from entering under the door
- A telephone or cell phone to report your location, especially if you are trapped
- A working flashlight
- A way to make noise such as a loud bell
- Dust mask. This may prevent some smoke particles from entering into your lungs. It will not prevent Carbon Monoxide

The critical decision will be to escape through normal routes, a bedroom window or other means. As a last resort, sheltering in a room as far away from the fire may be the only choice, but always choose a room with a window. Inform your family members of your concerns and how they may help you escape. If you live alone in an apartment or other multi-family building, choose those with space on the first floor, if at all possible. And if you reside in a private two-story residence and are facing health issues, consider moving your sleeping area to the first floor.

What if you are injured in a fire, how will that affect your health? Smoke inhalation and burns can be devastating, especially when the elderly or those with pre-existing health issues are affected. Recovery from burns can be very lengthy and painful, even in very healthy individuals. Your knowledge of any medical conditions you may have and how that may contribute to survival is your best weapon. Take steps now to evaluate and practice escaping from your home. Then, imagine it is filled with smoke. How would it change? We consistently encourage everyone to install and check smoke alarms in every sleeping area, stairway, and hallway leading to bedrooms. This is your first line of defense and your quick reaction will save your life.

For more information contact Duncanville Fire Prevention at 972-780-5047 or 5049.



# POLICE BEATS

## **Vacation Safety Tips: Prepare Your Home Before Vacationing**

When you're preparing to go on vacation, it can be easy to overlook basic steps that keep your home safe while you're away. Some of these home preparation tips may seem cliché, but they are a small inconvenience compared to the thousands of dollars you could lose in a burglary. Take these steps to protect your home while you're on vacation.

First, make sure you fill out and turn in a Vacation Check form from the Duncanville Police Department available in the police station lobby or website. A submitted Vacation Check form notifies officers and Citizens on Patrol that you are out of town and need to make extra patrols around your home. It also provides contact information in case a situation arises.

Burglars will watch a house for revealing signs that you're away on vacation. If you are gone for two weeks or more, the yard might start to look shaggy and unkempt, the newspapers will pile up on the front doorstep, vehicles won't be coming and going, and your trash won't be set out. These signs are a green flag to criminals looking to break into homes. Talk to a friend and have them stop over to check on the house. The peace of mind you feel knowing that a friend is overlooking your house is well worth the cupcakes or cookies you'll offer them in exchange.

Leaving a light on to make it look like someone is home is good, but having the same lights on in your house 24 hours a day for seven days straight can be costly and an obvious sign that you're away on vacation. Consider purchasing a light switch timer and scheduling various on/off times. Opinions differ about whether or not to close your blinds, but consider the general safety of your neighborhood before making this decision. If you're at risk of neighbors or people on your street eyeing your valuables, then maybe it's better to close your blinds. However, if your neighbors are more likely to peek in and check if they suspect something strange is happening, then consider leaving your blinds as you normally would. An unobstructed view inside the house could be helpful to neighbors or police checking for unusual activity.

Take a walk around the outside of your house before you leave and try to spot other obstructed views into your home. It's not uncommon for burglars to use overgrown bushes as cover while they pry open a first-floor window or slip in a door. If someone does break in, don't make it easy for them to find what they want. This goes beyond tips for leaving for vacation, but if you have valuable information or documents that aren't in a safety deposit box, scatter them throughout the house in unconventional locations like kitchen cupboards, pantries, children's rooms, or the laundry room. Did you know that items like TVs, toaster ovens, and phone chargers continue to use electricity even when they're not in use? To save on electric bills and protect your belongings from power surges, be sure to unplug unnecessary items before you leave on vacation. If you're traveling in the summer and don't have pets in the home, it is safe to set your thermostat at 90 degrees, or turn it off completely, just remember to have a friend come over and set it at the normal temperature a day or so before you return. In the winter months, keep your thermostat set to at least 50 degrees to avoid freezing pipes. After saying goodbye to the Mexican sun or freshly-powdered mountains of Colorado, the last thing you want is to come home to a smelly kitchen. Be sure to dispose of milk, fruits and other perishables so your house will smell as good as it did when you left. Make sure your house sitter has a spare key and is not seen pulling out a hidden key each time they venture over. Unfortunately, the hide-a-key



# POLICE BEATS

*Continues from Page 13*

rock just doesn't cut it anymore. The areas around your front door will be the first place intruders look to find your spare key, it's best to save yourself the trouble and give that spare key directly to the friend.

Double checking that you locked all your windows and doors could mean the difference between a safe home and a break-in. If you have a home security system, make sure it's armed. If you don't have a security system, consider sticking a "Beware of Dog" sign in the window. Burglars are less likely to break in if they think they might be dealing with a dog.

Tipping off friends, acquaintances and strangers (depending on your privacy settings) about your upcoming vacation is comparable to trusting an intruder with "checking on" your house. Save your social media posting until after you've safely returned.

Before you head out, ask yourself these questions and decide what level of precaution you need to take before going on vacation.

1. How long am I going to be gone? The longer you will be away, the more preparation you need to do to keep your home safe.
2. Have there been burglaries in my neighborhood before? Burglars have a tendency to return to the same residences or areas, so if it's common in your area, take extra precaution.
3. How well do I know my neighbors? While a trusted group of people keeping an eye out for strange activity might not prevent a burglar, they may be able to notify the authorities and get help quickly.

If you have more questions about the Vacation Check form, contact Officer Doug Sisk at (972) 780-5027 or [dsisk@duncanvillepd.com](mailto:dsisk@duncanvillepd.com)



**Officer  
Doug Sisk**  
Community Relations/  
Crime Prevention



**Lieutenant  
Brett Beene**

## **Weather watching for the non-meteorologist**

I first came to work for the Duncanville Police Department in late 1984. I'm in no way a professional (or amateur) meteorologist. However, during my tenure I have worked through numerous severe weather events that included historic flooding, hail, drownings, and a few area tornadoes. I worked with other first responders on two separate occasions walking the Ten Mile Creek from Duncanville to Hampton Road in DeSoto trying to recover victims who were swept away in rising flood waters. I watched the funnel cloud that wiped out the City of Lancaster Town Square after it dipped up and down over Joe Pool Lake and went over Duncanville. I also personally saw the lake buoy marked "Joe Pool Marina" sitting in the rubble of the Lancaster Town Square as I worked tornado damage-related security there days

after the event. How or why that tornado carried that floating buoy that far is still a mystery in my mind.



# POLICE BEATS

*Continues from Page 14*

As I mentioned, we unfortunately lost lives in flash flooding. Some were swept off the road in flash floods and one was swept away playing in a storm ditch as water rushed by. Please, adhere to the saying: "Turn around, don't drown." And parents please remind your children that the storm drains, open drainage areas and sewer inlets may be inviting as the water rushes by but they can have deadly consequences in a split second.

If you are outside in a City of Duncanville Park, you may notice one of the weather alert stations flashing lights and sounding a siren. That is a lightning detector. Even though you may not see the lightning it is still close enough to cause serious injuries or death.

Many years ago, when I trained new recruit officers, I began showing them landmark areas for quick reference in a severe storm situation. It has been my personal observation that about 90% of our severe weather tends to come from the same areas. They usually start west or southwest of the City of Duncanville. Not everyone readily knows which way to look when the weather warning says the storms are tracking towards Duncanville from the south, southwest, or west. But most people do understand landmarks. Here are a few simple identifiers that I've relied on year after year:

- If the storm is coming from the west (Ft. Worth, Joe Pool Lake, Arlington, Grand Prairie area), a great point of reference are the intersections of Clark Rd./Wheatland Rd., Clark Rd./Westridge Dr., or Clark Rd./Camp Wisdom Rd. Look directly towards Arlington from Clark Road and you usually see what's coming ahead of time.
- If the storms hit the Johnson County area (especially around Stephenville then Cleburne), and are tracking southwest to northeast (which is a very popular storm route), the radio towers that are visible in Cedar Hill represent the area that the storms will come from. (As a side note, Cedar Hill has the radio and television towers for the DFW metroplex since it is the highest point above sea level in Dallas County). The area of Clark Rd./Danieldale Rd. has one of the best views of the towers.
- If the weather casters talk about storms coming towards Duncanville from places like "Llano, Lampasas, Rio Vista, Hamilton, Hico, or Grandview", then Costco is a good landmark. Look down Highway 67 from Costco towards Cedar Hill and a little to the left of Highway 67. This will give you the general area for that storm track.

By no means is this an all-inclusive listing, but it has served me well as I've worked during severe weather. Hopefully it will help someone else.

One last suggestion, during the storm season the NOAA weather radio, smart phone weather warning apps, and the Duncanville Everbridge warning system can be very valuable assets. Check out the Duncanville Everbridge warning system @ our City website <http://www.duncanville.com> to sign up today.



## Helpful Gardening Tips from the Duncanville Parks & Recreation Department



### *What Is Mulch?*

Mulch is one of the best landscape substances for growing healthy plants and conserving water. The best mulch for your yard is one created from native sources and could include straw, newspaper, sawdust, bark, pine needles, leaves, grass clippings, and compost. They can benefit your lawn and garden by aiding in root development, preventing erosion, suppressing weeds, moderating soil temperature, and adding nutrients as they break down slowly. Mulching also helps conserve water by reducing water lost through evaporation.

Did you know that free mulch is available to Duncanville residents at the Municipal Service Center located at 330 Shady Trail? Come and get some while supplies last.



### *What Is Compost?*



Compost forms when certain substances go through a natural decomposition process, creating a material rich in humus and nutrients that can enrich your soil. Compost has many of the nutrients that plants need.

Composting works best when you combine equal amounts (by weight) of “green” and “brown” materials in the mixture. The compost pile should remain moist throughout, like a wrung-out sponge, but not soaked.

Did you know that by using mulch and compost, Texans can reduce the need for outdoor watering by 30% to 60%? Let's Take Care of Texas. It's the only one we've got!

# Parks and Recreation Upcoming Events

## What's Happening

**August 2016**

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

08/06/2016 Back to School Bash  
08/20/2016 Summer Concert

**September 2016**

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

09/01/2016 Food/Coat Drive Begins  
09/17/2016 Festival en Duncanville

**October 2016**

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

10/28/2016 Boo Bash

**DUNCANVILLE PARKS & RECREATION PRESENTS** 7:30 PM  
 ARMSTRONG PARK « 100 James Collins Blvd  
 GOSPEL JUNE 25TH | JAZZ JULY 16TH | R&B AUGUST 20TH



**Gospel Performers:**  
 CM3  
 Titus Glenn & Friends  
 House of Blues Gospel Brunch Choir

**Jazz Performers:**  
 Savoy Swing  
 La Pompe  
 Cat Garner Jazz Ensemble  
 Duval & Ave Maria

**R&B Performers:**  
 Nia Kids  
 Vante  
 Singer Lady Diamond



2016  
**SUMMER CONCERT SERIES**

Duncanville Parks & Recreation | 972.780.5070 | 201 James Collins Blvd, Duncanville, TX 75116 | www.duncanville.com

Duncanville Parks & Recreation Presents  
**A SUMMER AT THE MOVIES**

**SUMMER CAMP 2016**  
 JUNE 6 - AUGUST 19 7:30 AM - 6:00 PM AGES 5-14

\$100/WEEK RESIDENT  
 \$110/WEEK NON-RESIDENT  
 +\$65 REGISTRATION FEE  
 \*sibling discount and drop in rates available

DAILY ACTIVITIES  
 WEEKLY FIELD TRIP  
 LUNCH & SNACK PROVIDED

Duncanville Recreation Center | 201 James Collins Blvd, Duncanville, TX 75116 | 972.780.5070

THANKS FOR MAKING MY 4TH OF JULY A MEMORABLE ONE!

Duncanville City of Champions

**JAZZERCISE**

**\$149 SUMMER PASS**

UNLIMITED WORKOUTS JUNE 1ST-AUGUST 31ST • NO CONTRACTS • NO ADDITIONAL FEES

**END OF SUMMER**

**BACK TO SCHOOL BASH**

**AUGUST 6th 2016**  
**12PM - 3PM**

Come and join us for an end of Summer Party!  
 Enjoy Bounce houses, games, prizes and LOTS OF FUN!

Duncanville Recreation Center | 201 James Collins Blvd. | 972.780.5070 | www.duncanville.com

# D.L. Hopkins Jr. Senior Center, where Silver is Golden.

## D.L. Hopkins Senior Center

206 James Collins Blvd. Duncanville, TX 75116

### Ellis County BBQ



**August 16, 2016**

**Bus Leaves the Center: 4:30 P.M.**

**Cost: \$ 2.00+ Dinner**

Membership Required. Please Call 972-780-5073

For Further Information



## D.L. Hopkins Senior Center

206 James Collins Blvd. Duncanville, TX 75116



August 30, 2016

Leave: 4:30 P.M.



No Trip Fee. Pay For Your Meal Only.

Membership Required. Please Call 972-780-5073

For Further Information



## D. L. Hopkins Senior Center

206 James Collins Blvd. Duncanville, TX 75116



National Parks Adventure

### I Max Theater /Fort Worth

August 10, 2016

Leave: 9:00 A.M.

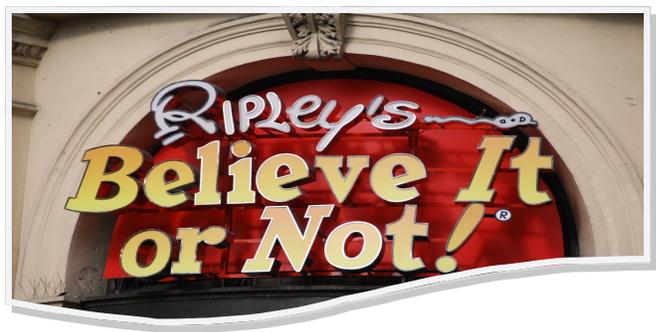
Cost: \$ 9.00 + Lunch

Membership Required. Please Call 972-780-5073

For Further Information

## D. L. HOPKINS SENIOR CENTER

206 JAMES COLLINS BLVD. DUNCANVILLE, TX 75116



**August 25, 2016**

Bus Leaves the Center: 9:30 A.M.

Cost \$ 21.00 + Lunch

**Ripley's  
Believe It or Not!**

**MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED. PLEASE CALL 972-780-5073**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

# Duncanville Fieldhouse

## TRAIN WITH CHAMPIONS



### BASKETBALL

BRIDGE BASKETBALL ACADEMY  
[WWW.BRIDGEBASKETBALLACADEMY.COM](http://WWW.BRIDGEBASKETBALLACADEMY.COM)

HOOP WORKSHOP  
[WWW.HOOPWORKSHOP.COM](http://WWW.HOOPWORKSHOP.COM)

INTELLECT HOOPS  
[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/INTELLECTHOOPS](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/INTELLECTHOOPS)

DJL BASKETBALL ACADEMY

### VOLLEYBALL

360 VOLLEYBALL  
[WWW.360VOLLEYBALL.COM](http://WWW.360VOLLEYBALL.COM)

DFW ELITE  
[WWW.DFWELITEVB.COM](http://WWW.DFWELITEVB.COM)

AIRELL'S COURT  
[WWW.AIRELLSCOURTSClubVOLLEYBALL.ORG](http://WWW.AIRELLSCOURTSClubVOLLEYBALL.ORG)



1700 S. MAIN ST. DUNCANVILLE, TX 75137  
 (972)-331-8868  
[WWW.DUNCANVILLEFIELDHOUSE.COM](http://WWW.DUNCANVILLEFIELDHOUSE.COM)

# DFH METRO S.A.F.E. SUMMER CAMP

**\$360**  
 MONTHLY  
 (AGES 5-9)

BOYS & GIRLS | AGES 5-14  
 WEEKLY FIELDTRIPS | 2 MEALS PROVIDED

**\$85**  
 REGISTRATION

**JUNE 6TH - AUGUST 19TH**

**\$324**  
 MONTHLY  
 (AGES 10-14)



### WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- BASKETBALL
- VOLLEYBALL
- FLAG FOOTBALL
- BOXING
- CHEER
- TUMBLING
- SOCCER
- DANCE
- DRILL TEAM
- DRUMS
- COOKING
- ARTS & CRAFTS
- GYM GAMES
- FOOTBALL



ASK ABOUT OUR SIBLING, CITY & ISD EMPLOYEE DISCOUNTS!

**6:30AM DROP OFF - 6PM PICK UP**

CONTACT US: 972-331-8868 |  
[WWW.DUNCANVILLEFIELDHOUSE.COM](http://WWW.DUNCANVILLEFIELDHOUSE.COM)

# Great American Shootout 2016

The Great American Shoot Out (GASO) basketball tournament took place last month at the Fieldhouse with 460 teams playing at numerous venues in the Best Southwest area. Six international teams participated including China, Australia, Mexico, and the Bahamas. Over 400 coaches from around the country were on hand to watch the action and another 400 referees to call the games. This is great news for the City's economy!



# City Information Index

## Duncanville City Offices

### GENERAL GOVERNMENT

City Manager	972-780-5003
City Secretary	972-780-5017
Public Information	972-780-5043
Personnel	972-780-5095
After Hours Calls	972-780-4959

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Secretary	972-780-5090
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### POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief of Police	972-780-5038
Community Relations	972-780-5027
Criminal Investigations	972-780-5037
Animal Control	972-223-6111
Police Records	972-780-5024
Non-Emergency	972-223-6111

### FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief	972-780-4920
Assistant Fire Chief	972-780-4921

### FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Director	972-780-5005
Municipal Court	972-780-5055
Water Billing	972-780-5010

### PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Director	972-780-5076
Community Center	972-780-5070
Senior Center	972-780-5073

### LIBRARY

Director	972-780-5053
Library	972-780-5050
Adult Services	972-780-5052
Youth Services	972-780-5044

### PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Director	972-780-5015
Building Inspections	972-780-5040
Garage Sale Permits	972-780-5040
Health Officer	972-780-4963
Code Enforcement	972-780-5040
Trash/Solid Waste Services	972-780-4946
Water/Waste Water	972-780-4900
City Engineer	972-780-5015
PC/CAD Technician	972-780-5064
Streets	972-780-4900

### COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Internet	www.duncanville.com
Television	Charter Comm. Cable Channel 26 AT&T U-verse Channel 99

### SPECIAL INTEREST NUMBERS

<i>License Plate Renewal</i>	
Dallas County Govt. Center	214-653-7811
<i>Driver's License Renewal</i>	
Department of Public Safety	469-272-9301
<i>Community Assistance</i>	
Duncanville Outreach	972-296-4986
<i>Chamber of Commerce</i>	
Chamber Offices	972-780-4990
<i>Duncanville ISD</i>	
Administration	972-708-2000

### CITY COUNCIL

Mayor - David L. Green	972-780-0348
At-Large - Patrick Harvey	972-296-5031
District 1 - Dennis L. Schwartz	469-567-0780
District 2 - Steven Rutherford	972-296-2669
District 3 - Leslie Thomas	214-773-2682
District 4 - Ronal L. Dotson, MD	972-298-2120
District 5 - Johnette Jameson	972-780-8887

# HELPFUL NUMBERS

## CITY OF DUNCANVILLE

### EMERGENCY

Fire, Police, Ambulance	911
Water	972.780.5010
After Hrs Water Emerg.	972.780.4959
FBI	972.559.5000
Poison Control	1.800.222.1222
Suicide Crisis Center	214.828.1000
Domestic Violence Hotline	1.800.799.7233

### NEWCOMER INFORMATION

Atmos Gas	972.934.9227
Auto Tags/Titles	214.653.7811
Chamber of Commerce	972.780.4990
Charter Cable	1.888.438.2427
DPS: Driver's License	469.272.9301
Republic	972.225.4207
Property Tax	214.653.7811
ONCOR Electric	1.888.313.4747
US Post Office	972.780.1695
Passport Information	972.780.1438
Voter Registration *	214.637.7937
Water/Trash/Sewer Setup	972.780.5010

### Newspapers:

DMN	214.745.8383
Focus	972.223.9175

### Duncanville ISD:

710 S. Cedar Ridge, 75137	
Administration	972.708.2000
Natatorium	972.708.2370
School Board:	
Carla Fahey	972.296.3452
Tom Kennedy	972.709.0015
Philip McNeely	972.709.7824
Marlies Peregory	972.849.6110
Janice Savage-Martin	972.709.0777
Elijah Granger	972.567.9982
Renee McNeely	972.709.7824

### Tourism:

Duncanville Fieldhouse	972.331.8868
Cedar Hill State Park	972.291.3900
Community Theatre	972.780.5707
Cedar Ridge Preserve	972.293.5150
Internat'l Museum of Cultures	972.708.7406
Joe Pool Marina	972.299.9010
Lynn Creek Marina	817.640.4200
Red Bird Lanes	972.298.7143
Red Bird Skateland	972.298.7400

### Hospitals:

Charlton Methodist Hospital	214.947.7777
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### CITY OFFICES

City Hall	972.780.5000
City Manager	972.780.5003
Assistant City Manager	972.780.5004
City Secretary	972.780.5017
Building Inspections	972.780.5041
Bldg & Sign Permits, Certificate of Occupancy	
Code Services	972.780.5040
Code Enf., Garage Sale Permit	
Economic Development	972.780.5090
Finance	972.780.5094
Health Inspector	972.780.4963
Hopkins Senior Center	972.780.5073
Municipal Court	972.780.5055
Parks/Athletics	972.780.5072
Personnel	972.780.5012
Job Line	972.780.5006
Planning & Zoning	972.780.5016
Public Library	972.780.5050
Public Relations	972.780.5043
Public Works	972.780.5015
Recreation Center	972.780.5070
Service Center	972.780.4900
Special Events	972.780.5074
Utility Billing	972.780.5010
After Hrs Water Emerg	972.780.4959

### Police:

Administration	972.780.5038
Animal Control	972.223.6111
Auto Pound	972.227.5188
Crime Prevention	972.780.5027
Crime Victim Advocate (ext 0)	972.780.5037
Internal Affairs	972.780.4912
Jail	972.780.5039
Non-Emergency Dispatch	972.223.6111
Records	972.780.5024
Tri-Cities Animal Shelter	972.291.5335
Warrants	972.780.5092
Or	972.780.5068

### Fire:

Administration	972.780.4920
Fire Station (W Camp Wisdom)	972.780.4923
Fire Station #2 (S Main St.)	972.780.4922

### City Council (May 19, 2015): \*\*

Mayor - David Green	972.780.0348
At-Large - Patrick Harvey	972.296.5031
District 1 - Dennis L. Schwartz	469.567.0780
District 2 - Steven Rutherford	972.296.2669
District 3 - Leslie Thomas	214.773.2682
District 4 - Ron Dotson, MD	972.298.2120
District 5 - Johnette Jameson	972.780.8887

\*\*Meets 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month.

### OTHER HELPFUL NUMBERS

AARP	1.888.687.2277
Better Business Bureau	214.220.2000
Dallas Central Appraisal Dist	214.631.0910
Dallas County:	
General (Including DBA's)	214.653.7099
Health & Human Services	214.819.2000
MY RIDE-Dallas	972.855.8084
Records	214.653.7131
Section 8 Housing	214.819.1871
Tax Office (Property/Vehicle)	214.653.7811
Duncanville Outreach Ministries	972.296.4986
Evictions	214.589.7000
Home Instead-Rides for Shut-Ins	972.262.7787
HUD	214.767.8300
MADD	214.744.6233
Meals on Wheels	214.689.2639
Project Duncanville	214.206.0198
American Red Cross	469.261.5614
Red Cross	214.678.4800
Salvation Army	214.630.5611
Social Security	1.800.772.1213
State Comptroller's Office	
Tax ID & Sales Tax Permit	972.709.4357
On-line: www.window.state.tx.us/taxpermit	
Texas Dept of Human Services:	
Food Stamps/Medicaid	972.709.8075
WIC	214.670.6875
Texas Workforce Commission:	
Dallas	972.709.5377
Grand Prairie	972.264.5881
United Way	214.978.0000
Vital Statistics:	
Birth/Death Certificates:	
Dallas (City)	214.653.7099
Grand Prairie (State)	214.751.4040
On-line: www.dshs.tx.us	
Marriage License:	
Downtown Dallas- 8-4 M-F	214.653.7559
East Dallas***	214.321.3182
North Dallas***	214.904.3032
Justice of the Peace Offices:***	
7201 S. Polk, Dallas	972.228.0280
106 Church St., Grand Prairie	214.751.4040
1411 W. Beltline, Richardson	214.904.3042
841 W Irving Blvd, Irving	214.589.7000
***Call for office hours	
<b>Local Rental Facilities:</b>	
Best Western	972.283.3000
City Parks and Facilities	972.780.5070
Duncanville Fieldhouse	972.331.8868
Hilton Garden Inn	972.283.9777
Holiday Inn Express	972.298.8000
Lion's Club Center	214.557.1581
Motel 6	972.296.0345

\*Voter Registration "Application" Cards available at City Hall

Updated 7-6-2016