



City of Duncanville

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Kevin Hugman, City Manager

DATE: March 16, 2018

SUBJECT: Weekly Update

Human Resources Director – It is with great pleasure that we announce Todd Siegel, currently employed as the Human Resources Generalist for the city, has been chosen as the new Human Resources Director to replace Jennifer Otey when she leaves to be a stay-at-home mom after the upcoming birth of her child. The selection team was impressed with several of the candidates we interviewed, but unanimously felt Todd was the top choice. Todd's experience in Human Resources is outstanding, having retired from the city of Pittsburgh, PA in 2016 as Human Resources Director. He had more than 26 years' experience in Pittsburgh, serving as an HR administrator, manager and chief examiner, followed by the position of director. He has extensive experience in civil service, personnel relations, recruiting, selection and retention of employees, and payroll processes. Todd holds a Master's degree in Public Management/Information Systems, a Master's degree in Information Science, and a Bachelor's degree in Psychology/Communications.

In selecting Todd, we also greatly considered the impact he has had in Duncanville in the relatively short time he has been here, and the positive relations he has fostered with employees. We know Todd will continue the great progress the Human Resources Department has seen under Jennifer's leadership, and know he will serve the employees of the city exceptionally well! I also want to thank the team who assisted me in the selection process – Assistant City Manager Paul Frederiksen, Police Chief Robert Brown, and Economic Development Director Jessica James.

House Committee on Economic Competitiveness Releases Interim Report – You may have seen this article from the Texas Municipal League in Friday's TML Exchange, but I thought it worth reprinting here:

On Tuesday, the House Select Committee on Economic Competitiveness released its [interim report](#). The report takes a big-picture look at the Texas economy, addressing how things like education, infrastructure, incentives, and quality of life considerations impact the economic competitiveness of the state. The entire report is worth reading.

Not surprisingly, the report emphasizes the importance of property tax relief to Texas businesses. What may come as a surprise, however, is the committee's recommendation for the best way to provide relief. Instead of recommending property tax caps that would stifle local governments' ability to promote a business-friendly environment, the committee suggests that the clearest path towards property tax relief is through increased state funding for public education. To that point, the report includes the following recommendation:

"As the state's share of public education funding has declined, the burden on local property taxes and recapture payments has grown, eliminating any opportunity for local property tax rates to be reduced. About 54 percent of all property taxes paid in Texas are collected by school districts. Therefore, the fastest and most effective way to reduce the property-tax burden is for the state to pay more of the cost of public education."

The committee reached this conclusion after hearing testimony from distinguished business, academic, and community leaders from across the state. These leaders understand that meaningful property tax relief can best result from fixing our school finance system, not forcing revenue caps on local governments. Should the legislature act on this recommendation, it will not only provide property tax relief to businesses and homeowners, but will further empower local governments to help shape the economic prosperity of the state.

Police Department – The Police Department is planning their annual Police Memorial event, honoring those officers who have given their lives in the previous year, as well as honoring the Duncanville officers who gave their lives in the line of duty. The event will be held Tuesday, May 15, 2018 at 10:00a in front of the police station. All are invited.

Fire Department – The Department has not had any major fire or EMS events in Duncanville this week.

The next scheduled Civil Service entrance exam will be Saturday, March 24, 2018. The Department currently has one vacancy and a planned retirement upcoming in June.

Fire Marshal Mike Trousdale and Fire Inspector Pam McAllister manned a booth at Flavor of Duncanville this week. They handed out fire education and prevention materials at the booth and were available for discussion during the event to encourage education and prevention of fires

Public Works – Water usage was 23.153 MG the week of March 5 - 11, up from 22.566 MG the prior week. The daily peak water demand occurred on Thursday, March 8, when 3.896 MG was used. There was no precipitation that week.

There will be no Planning and Zoning Commission meeting on Monday, March 26, 2018, due to lack of agenda items.

A judicial public hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, April 11, 2018, at 9:00a before the Duncanville Municipal Court in the Council Chambers to hear evidence and testimony

regarding a substandard structure at 727 S. Cockrell Hill Rd. (Chammeyville). The City is pursuing permission from the judge to demolish the building.

Street crews completed the pavement and subgrade repair on S. Main St. at Softwood Drive. The asphalt, concrete and construction crews worked together to complete this project.



The drainage crew removed brush and litter blocking the flow line of Mauk Branch Creek at Fain St. They also removed graffiti from the concrete wall of the alley behind the Kroger on Camp Wisdom Rd.

A Household Hazardous Waste Collection event was held Saturday, March 10, from 9:00a to 3:00p at the Duncanville High School softball field parking lot. This event is held annually to collect consumer electronics, chemicals and other hazardous household waste type items. A total of 570 cars dropped items off during the event.

Operation Cleanup Duncanville 2018 will be held on Saturday, April 7, from 8:00a to 1:00p, in the parking areas on James Collins Boulevard. Services will include recycling of electronics, paper shredding and Goodwill donations. Dumpsters will be available for bulk trash and brush drop off. The City is seeking volunteers to help with this event and volunteers will be provided lunch. To volunteer, contact Jessica Smith, Solid Waste Coordinator, at 972-780-4900.



On Tuesday, March 13, a contractor bored through an 18-inch water main at N. Duncanville Rd. and Fairmeadows Drive. Fairmeadows has been open on both ends to “one-way traffic” to continue access to the businesses, and detour signs have been placed in the area. A hole was opened in the roadway to expose the main. Repairs have been complicated by the fact the water line was encased in concrete and approximately 8 feet deep. Repairs should be complete by Friday, March 16. The

hole is currently covered with steel plates. Although water pressures were low, no properties were without water due to this main break and the water continues to be safe for use. The same contractor, who is doing work for MCI Communications, hit an Atmos gas line yesterday, in violation of their expired permit, so we will be issuing citations in addition to billing them for all repair work. Atmos was on site yesterday to repair their lines.

Construction Updates:

- The concrete construction crew constructed ADA ramps at 360 Fouts Ave. and 367 Fouts Ave.
- The FY18 Water Improvements being performed by LaBanda Contractors is substantially complete. Staff is finalizing the project punch list for work to be completed prior to project completion and close-out.
- The North Main Street Pump Station Phase II Improvements construction project is still pending completion of punch list items. Staff continues to work with the designer for a solution to the elevated storage tank lighting issue. Scott James Plumbing will install a new drain line from the chlorine building to the sanitary sewer manhole once the construction contractor completes the punch list items. The construction contractor requested the final punch list walk-through be scheduled after March 28, 2018, because he will be out of town until that time.

Library -- During Spring Break Week the library has hosted several fun and exciting programs and have had great attendance at all of them. There have been lots of smiling faces and happy families in the library this week. On Monday, they hosted the James Wand Magic Show with 175 in attendance. On Tuesday, the Library showed The Captain Underpants Movie and provided free popcorn to 173 young movie goers. Tuesday night was a Spring Break Edition of the regular Lego Maniacs program with 48 youthful builders challenging their creative muscles. And on Wednesday they had their petting zoo that had a long line of eager animal lovers – 418 in total - waiting to spend some time with goats, llamas, chickens, rabbits, sheep, a miniature horse and miniature cow. There were craft stations



set up along the way so those waiting to meet their new furry friends could create and take home their own animal hat or temporary tattoo to commemorate their exciting day.

Parks and Recreation

Parks:

- The irrigation crew is installing bubblers to all the new trees planted.
- The bleacher shade project was completed this week. The project was just below the budget of \$70,000 and was completed prior to the expected completion date that was provided to DBBI. DBBI is very pleased with the project. Recall also that DBBI provided partial funding for this project.

Recreation:

- The Recreation Center hosted their largest Spring Break Camp in recent years with 50 kids enjoying lots of fun activities highlighted by a trip to the movies to see "Peter Rabbit".
- The Recreation Division participated in the Flavor of Duncanville along with several other departments to share our services with the community.

Economic Development – ED staff is providing support and working on the following projects:

- Continues to work with the Best Southwest Partnership on the RED Summit.



- DCEDC board members and staff had a booth at the Flavor of Duncanville where they surveyed residents on the different businesses that they would like to see in Duncanville. Residents completed fifty (50) surveys with suggestions. The board and staff also provided information on the TIF and the Traffic Box Art Contest to attendees.

The DCEDC will hold their monthly meeting on Monday, March 19, at 6:00p in the City Council Briefing Room.

Certificate of Occupancy (CO) Permits Issued:

- Dollar ATM; 1530 S Clark Rd. Ste. # B (ATM Retail and Repair)
- The Vanity Room; 1019 S Main St. Ste. # 102 (Hair and Make Up Studio & Salon)



Certificate of Occupancy (CO) Applications Received

- Finishing Touch; 336 E Camp Wisdom Rd. Ste. # B (Retail Fashion & Mobile Fingerprint Service)
- Shake It Off Fitness and Nutrition; 454 E Wheatland Rd. (Fitness)
- Dula's Angels Assisted Living; 1119 Dula Cir (Assisted Living Home)
- Tony's Salon; 242 W Wheatland Rd (Barber Shop / Salon Expansion)
- Grace Place Church of Christ; 520 Big Stone Gap (Church)

Public Information – News coverage for this week:

Duncanville's Innovative Inner.Space Project Presents Salon Show

Link: <http://www.focusdailynews.com/2018/03/09/duncanville-innovative-inner-space-project-salon-show/>**Source:** Focus Daily News

Date: March 9, 2018

At Smokey DZ BBQ In Duncanville, the Barbecue is Over-the-Top

Link: <http://www.dallasobserver.com/restaurants/at-smokey-dz-bbq-in-duncanville-barbecue-is-a-family-affair-10455908>

Source: Dallas Observer

Date: March 12, 2018

Museum of International Cultures Celebrates Texas History

Link: <http://www.focusdailynews.com/2018/03/13/museum-of-international-cultures-celebrates-texas-history/>

Source: Focus Daily News

Date: March 13, 2018