

CityScape

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What a “NEAT” day we had on Saturday, April 24th!

NEAT stands for Neighborhood Enhancement Action Team, and boy did we have some action and a lot of great teams!

After a stormy rainy night, the clouds broke and the sun came out just in time for the 115 volunteers to arrive. The

volunteers saturated the NEAT area with their energy and enthusiasm, working in the neighborhood located

south of W. Fourth Street, north of Fair Road, east of S. Washington and west of Austin Drive.

The volunteers did everything from pressure washing and painting houses, cleaning and mowing yards, trimming trees, picking up and hauling off trash, and building a handicap ramp.

Donors like Texas Health Resources, Falcon Steel, TVEC, Kaufman Neighborhood Development Organization, Dr. William Fortner, paid for supplies while volunteers from most of the churches in town, the Chamber of Commerce, and Presbyterian Hospital employees performed the labor to cleanup and repair. It was a beautiful day, a beautiful event, with beautiful people.

VEHICLES AND DRIVING/PARKING IN CITY PARKS

The weather is warming up and spring has arrived. The City of Kaufman wants to remind citizens that driving or parking vehicles on the grass or landscaping located in a City Park is against City ordinance. Driving on park property may result in damages to both turf and irrigation sprinkler systems and can cause costly repairs. Citizens should hand carry items from the street or parking lot to the interior of a park. This also applies to organizations that rent bounce houses and other large items for special events.



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CITY LAKE PARK ON HWY 34 IS NOW OPEN

The Kaufman City Lake Park located on Hwy 34 is once again open to the public. The park was closed for two weeks earlier this year due to reports of alligator “sightings” from citizens visiting the park. Richard Underwood, Director of Public Works, contacted the Texas Parks and Wildlife Game Warden and the Kaufman Police Department to investigate the sightings and alligator tracks that were found. Although, during the investigation no alligators were actually seen, City staff placed signs through out the City park notifying visitors that in a natural environment they may at any time come in contact with potentially dangerous animals including alligators, snakes and other hazards. It is important that you do not feed alligators or other dangerous critters in a public environment to maintain their natural apprehension of humans.

SMOKE DETECTORS AVAILABLE

The Kaufman Volunteer Fire Department has purchased 100 smoke detectors that are available free of charge to elderly, disabled, or low income residents in the City of Kaufman. Volunteers are available to assist with installation of smoke detectors if needed. Call the Kaufman Fire Department’s non-emergency number (972-932-3538) for more details.

GOT BRUSH?

Mother Nature blessed Kaufman this spring with plenty of rain. It’s the wind that caused the problems.

Excess brush and limbs from recent storms created city wide problems for the city’s garbage contractor, IESI. Crews worked extra shifts and some weekends trying to keep up with the demand. Just as progress was being made, added high winds would hit and more brush piles would pop up all over town. City crews were dispatched to assist with much of the cleanup in an effort to keep streets and alleyways free from debris. Finally, things seem to be back to the normal “spring cleaning” as residents trim bushes and trees.

The city would like to thank IESI for their extra efforts in brush removal. In countless cases, they went far beyond their contracted requirements. Now, the city is asking residents to adhere to the contracted amounts of brush removal of five (5) cubic yards per residence to be removed on bulk pick up days provided twice a month. IESI requests that all brush be piled in manageable bundles no longer than 60”.

Residents that hire tree trimmers should know that larger amounts of trees and limbs are not covered in their monthly garbage fees. Homeowners should require tree trimming companies to remove large trees and limbs as part of their tree removal agreement. As an alternative, residents may contact IESI directly to contract removal of trees and large brush piles for a fee. For pricing information, call IESI at 972-289-6549.

New Technology Aids Police Officers

The Kaufman Police Department is currently in the process of implementing a new Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) and Records Management System.



City Communications Supervisor Robin Perkins

This state of the art technology was made possible through a grant from the State Criminal Justice Planning Fund. The Criminal Research, Information Management and Evaluation System or CRIMES, will completely automate the information systems of the department including dispatch, offense, incident and arrest reports, property room management, traffic activity and crime analysis to name a few. The system will also support mobile laptop computers in each of the

patrol cars.

This \$75,850 grant provided all equipment and software for the department. This enables police officers to instantly process license plate numbers and know who they will be talking to before they approach a car. If a citation is issued, the officer can swipe the driver's license through the ticker writer and automati-

cally populate the fields on the citation that contain information such as name, address, driver's license number and date of birth. Once complete, the officer can print the ticket on location. This information is electronically recorded in the CRIMES software and will be automatically sent to the Municipal Court.

Other features of the software include keeping inventory of evidence and property by using Universal Product Codes (UPC). These are the same bar codes used by retailers on everyday products. For officers in the field, warrants may be verified from mobile computers in their cars without calling police dispatch. As you can see, this will allow dispatch to work more efficiently during high volume radio traffic, 911 calls, and data entry.

The Kaufman Police Department continues to seek opportunities to upgrade technology in an effort to better serve the citizens of Kaufman. ■

- Council meets fourth Monday
- Planning Commission meets first Tuesday
- Park Board meets third Thursday
- KKB meets third Tuesday

IMPORTANT NUMBERS:

- General Information: 972-932-2216
- Kaufman Chamber of Commerce: 972-932-3118
- Emergency: 911
- Police Department: 972-932-3094
- Dispatch: 972-932-3094
- Animal control: 972-932-3094
- Fire Department: 972-932-3538
- Trash Disposal & Recycling Center: 972-932-2161

SPRING CLEANUP HUGE SUCCESS

The annual County/City wide cleanup kicked off on Friday, May 14th, and Saturday, May 15th. Even though it rained on Friday afternoon, the cleanup was a great success and met this year's expectations. Kaufman County and City of Kaufman residents took advantage of the cleanup to dispose of bulk items no longer in use.

City of Kaufman Street Department crews worked long and hard to keep up with the volume of items brought to the Kaufman Trash Disposal and Recycling Center. The City's goal to keep Kaufman clean and beautiful will be an ongoing effort. With the community's support, we can keep Kaufman clean and a great place to live. Big thanks to all of the participants who helped make this year's cleanup a success.

City Results:

👉 40 Yard open top dumpsters	10
👉 30 Yard open top dumpsters	9
👉 25 Yard rear load compactor unit	1
👉 Brush loads	38
👉 Tires	123
👉 Batteries	5
👉 Misc (mattresses, garbage bags, etc)	183
👉 Total Man-hours (city crew)	205

ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

Last week, dedicated staff members were recognized at the City's thirteenth annual City Manager's Awards Banquet.

Service awards were presented to Courtney Sutton (5 years), Harvey R. Ballard (5 years), Les Edwards (10 years), Diane Dickerson (10 years), Norma Sloan (10 years), Johnny Gilmore (15 years), and Jo Ann Talbot (25 years). New employees were recognized as well as employees with perfect attendance. Officer Betsy Segura was acknowledged as the Police Department Office of the Year. The Streets & Parks Department received the Safety Award for 2009. Also recognized were United Way committee members, Kaufman Police Association members for their annual Kid Fish Tournament, and employees that each year plan the annual awards banquet (City Manager's Awards Committee). The City of Kaufman is proud to have dedicated employees that volunteer their time for the enhancement of our community.

Three employees were selected by their co-workers for the Department's Choice Award. Selected were Norma Sloan (Administration/Finance), Harvey R. Ballard (Public Works), and Joel Norris (Public Safety). These three employees were then voted on by their peers for the Employee of the Year Award. This year's winner was Joel Norris. Joel works in the police department as Animal Control Officer and has been employed by the City since June 2008.

Special guests at this year's banquet were Mayor Fortner and City Councilmember Kenneth Munden. City staff would like to extend a special thank you to Trinity Valley Electric Coop for once again allowing the city to use their meeting room for this annual event. ■

Newsletter Staff

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- Wade Ballard, Writer*