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CONNECTION

Council calls May 7 election to consider recommended City Charter amendments

Residents will vote May 7 on recommended City Charter revisions dealing with the



Fort Worth residents go to the polls on May 7 to decide the fate of several Charter amendments.

number of City Council members, terms of office, compensation and more.

The charter defines the or-

ganization, powers, functions and essential procedures of city government. The city's first home rule charter was adopted in 1924, establishing the city council/city manager form of government Fort Worth uses today. The charter has been amended 13 times since adoption, most recently in 2006.

An 11-member task force, appointed by the City Council, presented its final recommendations in December. The Charter Review Task Force examined these questions:

- **Number of councilmembers.** There currently are eight members plus the mayor. Due to Fort Worth's population growth, the task force is recommending an increase to 10 members plus the

mayor. The resolution appointing the task force called for the increase to become effective upon redistricting after the 2020 Census for a 2023 election.

- **Terms of office.** The task force recommended going from two-year terms to three years for all members.
- **Staggered or concurrent terms for councilmembers.** Currently, terms are concurrent, meaning all members are up for election at the same time. The task force recommended continuing to elect all members concurrently.
- **Compensation for councilmembers.** The current charter puts councilmembers' pay at \$25,000 annually, \$29,000 for the mayor. The task force recommends increasing the salary of councilmembers to \$45,000 and increasing the mayor's salary to \$60,000, effective Oct. 1, 2016.

In addition, the City Council is proposing eight technical amendments. These are aspects of the charter that are inconsistent with state law, use archaic language or include unused provisions.

The Council voted 8-1 to place the charter election on the May 7 ballot.

Learn more: www.FortWorthTexas.gov/boards/charter.

Sixth precinct, in far north, will boost police response times

Plans are marching forward for a sixth police patrol division in far north Fort Worth that will eventually house 96 officers.

A 23,000-square-foot facility on 10 acres in far north Fort Worth is in the planning stages for the new precinct. The project is estimated to cost between \$11 million and \$14 million.

Far North Fort Worth is the fastest-growing part of the city, yet response times

to emergency calls are among the worst, statistics show.

Plans call for the precinct to be operational by fiscal year 2018. A three-year process to start the division begins in the 2016 fiscal year, with 25 officers in the budget.

Money is also earmarked in the Crime Control and Prevention District budget for the new precinct.

Learn about Fort Worth's capital projects: www.FortWorthTexas.gov/projects.



New parking option: Make mobile payments with free FW PARK app at 2,700 on-street spaces

The FW PARK mobile app provides motorists with a new payment option at all on-street meters in Fort Worth.

The City of Fort Worth partnered with Parkmobile LLC to launch on-street mobile payment throughout the city, including meters downtown, in the Medical District, the Cultural District and around TCU. The application allows parkers to use their mobile phone devices to pay for parking at 2,700 on-street parking spaces.

Customers using the FW PARK app can pay for parking with their smartphones using the free application for iPhone and Android. Additionally, Parkmobile customers from other cities can pay for parking in Fort Worth using a current Parkmobile account.

Enforcement officers will be able to see



Customers using the FW PARK app can pay for parking with their smartphones.

before a parking session expires.

that a motorist has paid with FW PARK using their wireless handheld devices, so customers should not worry when the meter does not change. Mobile app users may also choose to receive alerts and reminders 15 minutes

New medical treatment ward provides healthy environment for animals entering the shelter

Every day, animals find themselves at the Chuck Silcox Animal Shelter and in need of medical treatment that simply had been unavailable at the shelter – until now.

The City of Fort Worth and the Community Foundation of North Texas opened a new medical treatment ward at the animal shelter that expands shelter capacity and provides much-needed medical services.

Identified as a need in 2009 as part of the city's plan to increase live outcomes at the animal shelter, the medical



Henry, once a homeless and ill dog, now serves as an ambassador for all Fort Worth shelter pets.

ward was one of the final pieces of a puzzle that included increasing adoptions, increasing efforts to spay and neuter pets, developing strong partnerships with rescues, reducing the number of animals entering the shelter and providing a healthy environment for animals at the shelter.

Through the Community Foundation of North Texas, \$1.2 million from private donors and foundations helped make this dream a reality.

Annual Report covers achievements of city government

Learn about the latest milestones and achievements by your local government when you read the 2015 City of Fort Worth Annual Report online at <http://digital.turn-page.com/i/636384-city-of-fort-worth-annual-report-2015>.

Don't risk your life when you see a flooded road

Spring brings rain and a greater potential for flooding, and Fort Worth's Stormwater Management Division is working to help residents protect themselves from this hazard.

It is hard to tell the depth of water or the condition of a road when submerged, but it is easy for automobiles to be swept downstream by fast-moving flood waters.

Whether you are driving or walking, if you come to a flooded road, Turn Around Don't Drown.



Get free emergency alerts to your smart phone, email

The Fort Worth Fire Department Office of Emergency Management manages a system of warning sirens designed to provide alerts to residents who are outside of their homes or businesses.

While some residents can hear outdoor sirens inside their homes or business, not everyone can, especially during severe weather events.

In the event of an emergency, the Office of Emergency Management first activates outdoor warning sirens, then

sends free emergency text alerts to your smart phone or email through Nixle.com.

Two ways to register:

- To receive emergency alerts only, text your ZIP code to 888777.
- Visit www.nixle.com to register your smart phone, your email or both.



The Crud Cruiser is rolling through your neighborhood

Gather up the chemical crud from around your home and meet us in your neighborhood for a quick, convenient, drive-through drop-off event.

The City of Fort Worth's Crud Cruiser household hazardous waste mobile collection events start in April and continue through fall. Call 817-392-1234 for information on what materials are accepted.

Events are for Fort Worth residents



only (no businesses). Proof of residency is required.

April 16, 9-11 a.m., Northwest Regional Library, 6228 Crystal Lake Drive.

April 23, 9-11 a.m., R.D. Evans Community Center, 3200 Lackland Road.

April 30, 9-11 a.m., Summerglen Library, 4205 Basswood Blvd.

May 21, 9-11 a.m., Southside Customer Service Center, 4100 Columbus Trail.

June 4, 9-11 a.m., Como Community Center, 4900 Horne St.

June 11, 9-11 a.m., Casino Beach Park, 7451 Watercross Drive.

June 11, 1-3 p.m., Diamond Hill Community Center, 1701 N.E. 36th St.

June 18, 9-11 a.m., Worth Heights Community Center, 3551 New York Ave.

June 25, 9-11 a.m., Riverside Community Center, 3700 E. Belknap St.

June 25, 1-3 p.m., Hazel Harvey Peace Center for Neighborhoods, 818 Missouri Ave.

July 16, 9-11 a.m., Eugene McCray Community Center, 4932 Wilbarger St.

July 16, 1-3 p.m., Highland Hills Community Center, 1600 Glasgow Road.

July 23, 9-11 a.m., MET Church, 11301 Old Denton Road.

Aug. 27, 9-11 a.m., Southside Customer Service Center, 4100 Columbus Trail.

Oct. 1, 9-11 a.m., R.D. Evans Community Center, 3200 Lackland Road.

Oct. 8, 9-11 a.m., Summerglen Library, 4205 Basswood Blvd.



Camp Fort Worth provides a summer full of awesome activities and exciting experiences

School will be out soon, but the fun and learning doesn't have to stop. Enroll your children in Camp Fort Worth and let them discover new skills and friendships.

The Camp Fort Worth program is full of challenging and creative activities for children ages 5-13. Each day promises nonstop fun and excitement. Camps run June 13-Aug. 12. There is no camp on July 4.

Camp Fort Worth is affordable – just \$270 for nine weeks of fun. This includes daily activities from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. A com-

munity center membership is required. Fee waivers are available for families with limited income. To learn more, call 817-392-5790.

Extended care is available from 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Take advantage of a Molly Deal and receive a summer camp and extended care for an additional \$175.

Lunch and snacks are included. Meals are provided in partnership with the Texas Department of Agriculture and are available to all campers.

Learn more:
www.FortWorthTexas.gov/camp.

Is your neighborhood association registered with the city?

If your neighborhood association isn't registered, now is the perfect time to join more than 320 other

associations and alliances that have access to free, personalized community outreach workshops, weekly communication efforts, early courtesy zoning notifications and access to



a Community Engagement liaison specializing in your neighborhood.

The Community Engagement team provides support and assistance to Fort Worth's neighborhood associations and other organizations. The team's mission is to connect the community with city resources and with each other, working together to build a strong community.

To learn more, visit
FortWorthTexas.gov/engagement.

Eastside's tree-planting project is blossoming with help from Fort Worth

Newly planted Texas redbud trees will be blossoming early this spring along a new trailhead being completed at the southeast corner of Oakland Boulevard and East First Street.

The trees are part of a long-planned effort to beautify east Fort Worth by planting as many as 2,000 flowering trees along roadways, parkways and in parks.

The project includes planting significant portions of frontage along Randol Mill Road, Beach Street, Oakland Boulevard and areas around Gateway Park, said Jerry Barton, chairman of the Eastside Blossoms organizing committee, which dreams of carrying the theme throughout Fort Worth.

Eastside Blossoms is a project of East Fort Worth Inc., a nonprofit economic development corporation committed to improving

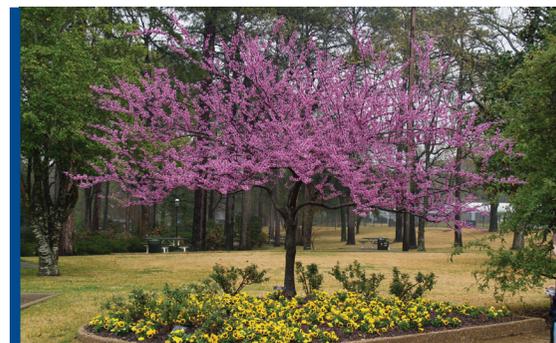
and marketing the quality of life in east Fort Worth. The redbuds were selected to coordinate with similar trees to be planted by Nolan Catholic School along Oakland Boulevard from near I-30 to the East First Street-Randol Mill intersection.

City forester Melinda Adams is helping the project get off the ground, as is Richard Zavala, director of the city's Park and Recreation Department.

"We want to reiterate the fact that the City of Fort Worth full intends to assist in processing the necessary approvals and agreements that will enable East Fort Worth Inc. to accomplish its vision and goals for the Eastside Blossoms project," Zavala said.

Mayor Betsy Price is another fan.

"I'm so excited for the progress that East Fort Worth is making on Eastside



Redbud tree in full bloom.

Blossoms," Price said. "I believe this tree planting project will go a long way toward enhancing the beauty of east Fort Worth and increasing the quality of life. This will indeed benefit our entire city."

Stay connected



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Fort Worth City Hall



City of Fort Worth



Watch meetings, events and more online at FortWorthTexas.gov/fwtv or on air at Charter Cable Channels 190 and 191, One Source: 7, Verizon: 5 and AT&T Uverse: 99.



City Call Center 817-392-1234

Tell us what you think

We are always looking for new ways to keep residents informed of what is happening in our city. Please let us know what you think of our new Fort Worth Connection and give us ideas on things you would like to see in future editions. Call 817-392-6248 or email FWConnection@FortWorthTexas.gov.

Fort Worth Connection is produced by the City Manager's Office of Communications and Public Engagement.