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Voters approve 11-member City Council

The Fort Worth City Council will increase from eight members plus the mayor to 10 members plus the mayor sometime after the 2020 census.

Voters approved the city charter amendment, along with numerous others, on May 7.

These propositions failed:

Proposition 1. Would have increased the number of years from two years to three years that a council member serves after elected.

Proposition 3. Would have increased the salary of the mayor and councilmembers in October of 2016.

These propositions passed:

Proposition 2. Increases the number of councilmembers from nine members to 11 beginning with the first election after redistricting following the 2020 census, i.e., the 2023 election.

Proposition 4. Allows a council seat that is vacant to be filled by a majority of the City Council, provided the seat will be vacant 12 months or less prior to the next election. (This proposition passed but will not be implemented as it was dependent on the passage of Proposition 1, which failed.)

Proposition 5. Allows the mayor and councilmembers to be sworn in at the same time the votes are canvassed.

Proposition 6. Clarifies that a candidate must live in the district 180 days before the election.

Proposition 7. Allows removal of municipal judges for cause.

Proposition 8. Public hearings and publications will be handled in compliance with state law, reducing costs.

Proposition 9. Clarifies that the ordinance with the highest number of affirmative votes prevails.

Proposition 10. Allows the city to use electronic notices if allowed by state law.

Proposition 11. Removes charter provisions inconsistent with state and federal law.

The charter defines the organization, 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. Before May, the charter had been amended 13 times since adoption, most recently in 2006.

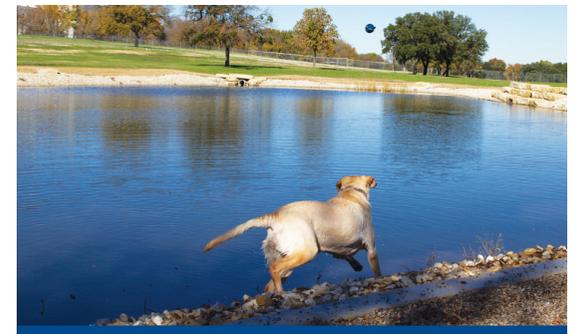
ZBonz Dog Park gives pooches something to bark about

Fort Worth residents and their canine companions are now enjoying ZBonz, a 10-acre park built on the former site of the Z. Boaz Golf Course at 6950 W. Camp Bowie Blvd.

The park has separate sections for large and small dogs, sized at 7 acres and 3 acres, respectively. It's also equipped with two shelters, various agility features, pet fountains and two aerated ponds – making it perfect for pups of all sizes and dispositions.

Humans are enjoying the park's benches and other furniture. A dog-wash station and 12 dog waste stations make cleaning up after four-legged friends a walk in the park.

The park was part of the 2014 bond program, although the original project was enhanced to



Dogs are having a tail-waggin' good time at ZBonz, which opened this spring.

include new features and amenities thanks to the addition of privately raised funds.

ZBonz is Fort Worth's second dog park. Fort Woof, 751 Beach St., was recognized in 2016 by *Dog Fancy Magazine* as the No. 1 dog park in the nation.

Animal shelter staff working to make improvements based on task force recommendations

Fort Worth's animal shelter is making steady progress on areas identified by a task force as needing improvement.

A citizen task force that was formed last November gave the shelter passing marks for veterinary medical practices and state health and safety standards, but also said the shelter has some areas that need improvement.

The task force looked at live release rates, veterinary medical practices, work environment, facilities and equipment, customer service, staffing and communications.

Support the animal shelter online at www.facebook.com/FortWorthAnimalShelter.



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City of Fort Worth is the latest Blue Zones Approved Worksite focused on healthy living

The City of Fort Worth continues its commitment to employee health and wellness with its designation as one of the newest Fort Worth Blue Zones Project Approved Worksites. Eighteen city locations earned the designation.

Fort Worth joined more than two dozen organizations that were recently recognized by the City Council for efforts to improve the community's well-being. All became Blue Zones Approved by completing their respective Blue Zones Project Pledges and adopting or supporting a number of best practices from a list of options designed to make the healthy choice the easy choice in Fort Worth.

Blue Zones Project is a communitywide well-being improvement initiative to help make healthy choices easier for everyone in Fort Worth. A vital part of Fort Worth's Healthiest City Initiative, Blue Zones Project



Mayor Betsy Price and Councilmembers Ann Zadeh (District 9) and Dennis Shingleton (District 7) ring the bell to celebrate the City of Fort Worth's latest wellness milestone.

encourages changes in the community that lead to healthier options. When the entire community participates – from worksites and schools to restaurants and grocery stores – the small changes contribute to huge benefits: lowered healthcare costs, improved productivity and, ultimately, a higher quality of life.

2017 city budget goal: Fiscal fitness

When you want to feel your best, you have to prioritize your day to find time for the gym. By putting in the required hard work, you reap the reward of a healthy lifestyle.

This is what the City of Fort Worth wants to accomplish with its approach to the fiscal year 2017 budget. The city is trying to find additional funding for capital priorities – streets, sidewalks, buildings, vehicles, etc. – by ensuring that operating expenses (the annual cost of business) are as fiscally fit as possible.

Working with the mayor and City Council, the city manager is prioritizing the approach to the city's budget process. A few of these priorities include:

- No use of General Fund reserves for the operating budget.
- Increase the ongoing level of maintenance and infrastructure spending.
- Fully document contractual obligations.
- Operating revenues fully fund the cost of operations.

Whether it's through competitive bidding processes, electricity savings or a better way

of doing business, the city's goal is to have the most effective and efficient services possible. A lean operating budget provides additional resources to maintain and expand city infrastructure.

The city holds budget stakeholder meetings. During these meetings, members of citizen advisory committees, community groups and other stakeholders receive current information about the budget process and provide feedback on the budget. For the upcoming fiscal year, meetings will occur on March 17, April 20, May 19, June 16, July 13 and Aug. 17.

The city's proposed fiscal year 2017 Capital Budget and Five-Year Capital Plan will be presented to the City Council on Aug. 2. The following week, on Aug. 9, the recommended operating budget will be presented. Any budget follow-up questions will be discussed at regular Tuesday afternoon Pre-Council meetings throughout August. The City Council is scheduled to adopt the fiscal year 2017 operating and capital budgets on Sept. 13.

Learn more at www.FortWorthTexas.gov/budget.

Everybody in the water!

Two Fort Worth swimming pools and a spray ground are open for their summer seasons through Labor Day.



Marine Park Aquatic Center

Forest Park Pool. Fort Worth's oldest public pool, Forest Park Pool, 2850 Forest Park Blvd., is open 12:30-6:30 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday this

summer. Entrance fee is \$5 for swimmers 17 and under, seniors over 65 and current or former military with ID; \$6 for 18 and older.

Marine Park Aquatic Center. The aquatic center at 303 N.W. 20th St. will be open 12:30-6:30 p.m. seven days a week. Entrance fee is \$5 for swimmers 17 and under, seniors over 65 and current or former military; \$6 for 18 and older.

Sycamore Spray Ground.

The city also operates a spray ground at Sycamore Community Center, 2525 E. Rosedale St. There is no entry fee. The spray park is open noon-7 p.m. seven days a week.

Campaign urges caretakers to take responsibility for children's safety near water

Following the unacceptably high number of child drownings in Tarrant County in 2015, Peaks and Ladders – a collaboration of the Fort Worth Fire Department, Fort Worth Firefighter Charities and Cook Children's Medical Center – is committed to reversing the trend in 2016.

Texas ranks No. 1 for pool drowning deaths. Six fatal drownings were reported in Fort Worth last year, a record for the city. Of those, five were in swimming pools, and one was in a bathtub.

Fort Worth Firefighter Charities is installing more than 1,800 drowning prevention signs, available in English and Spanish, at all Fort Worth public and community pools.

To learn more, contact Firefighter Charities at 817-803-3006.

Register online for recreation, facility reservations

Residents who are looking for recreation opportunities or to rent a city facility no longer will have to visit a city office or make a phone call.

Customers can use a mobile device, tablet or computer to access a page on the city's website – <https://online.activenetwork.com/CityofFortWorth/Start/Start.asp> – to browse recreational opportunities, including:

- Purchasing or renewing community center memberships.
- Viewing program offerings via an online catalog.
- Registering for classes, events and leagues.
- Viewing availability and locations of city recreation facilities, then reserving space.

Fort Worth awarded \$1 million grant for development of community park in far north

Fort Worth has received a \$1 million grant from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission to build a new community park in far north Fort Worth.

The 2016 Urban Outdoor Recreation Grant funds will be used for Phase I development of the future Alliance Community Park, scheduled to be developed south of Hwy. 114 and east of I-35W. Phase I will include development of the park drive and parking area, trails and three lighted competition athletic fields.

Land acquisition, funded from park dedication fees, will serve as the city's match for the grant. Initial development is being coordinated in partnership with Hillwood Properties.

Councilmember Dennis Shingleton, who represents the area, said a community park is sorely needed in far north Fort Worth. "The grant and development of the future Alliance Community Park further demonstrates the city's commitment to deliver facilities and services to the developing North Fort Worth communities," Shingleton said.

The 2016 Urban Outdoor Recreation Grant program is funded from the sporting goods sales tax and previously allocated Land and Water Conservation Fund revenues, both of which have had the benefit of the Fort Worth City Council's legislative support.

Community Action Partners rolls out new automated customer care center

Community Action Partners, a division of the Neighborhood Services Department, has made it easier for residents to set up appointments for utility assistance at one of the 10 CAP locations in Tarrant County.

CAP's new automated appointment system will enable clients to make appointments online from a computer or mobile device or by telephone. Now, residents can set up appointments by logging in or calling in any time of the day, any day of the week – a flexibility that will eliminate long hold times and improve client satisfaction.

Residents who would like to schedule an appointment for CAP's energy/gas payment assistance can still dial 817-392-5790 or 817-204-0315. Once the resident has scheduled an appointment, he or she can also discuss any other household needs with a caseworker.

The City of Fort Worth is the Community Action Agency for Tarrant County and is dedicated to assisting vulnerable populations, helping them become stable and eventually attain self-sufficiency.



Join the Dana Sudborough Latin Jazz Quartet in September for original Latin jazz by vibraphonist and composer Dana Sudborough.

Take a musical journey during Library's summer jazz series

Don't miss the Fort Worth Library's seventh season of 3rd Thursday Jazz. Internationally renowned musicians perform free in the Gallery of the Central Library, 500 W. Third St.

All shows start at 6:30 p.m. Parking is free on the streets and in the Third Street garage after 6 p.m.

Here's the lineup:

July 21. Women In Jazz.

Aug. 18. An Evening with the Music of Kurt Weill.

Sept. 15. Hot Latin Jazz Vibes.

Stay connected



Betsy Price
Mayor
817-392-6118
Betsy.Price@FortWorthTexas.gov



Sal Espino
District 2
817-392-8802
District2@FortWorthTexas.gov



W.B. "Zim" Zimmerman
District 3
817-392-8803
District3@FortWorthTexas.gov



Cary Moon
District 4
817-392-8804
District4@FortWorthTexas.gov



Gyna Bivens
District 5
817-392-8805
Gyna.Bivens@FortWorthTexas.gov



Jungus Jordan
District 6
817-392-8806
District6@FortWorthTexas.gov



Dennis Shingleton
District 7
817-392-8807
District7@FortWorthTexas.gov



Kelly Allen Gray
District 8
817-392-8808
District8@FortWorthTexas.gov



Ann Zadeh
District 9
817-392-8809
District9@FortWorthTexas.gov



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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.