



A PUBLICATION FOR THE CITY OF FORT WORTH CITIZENS  
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## Moving forward in a season of change



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**Dear North Fort Worth Friends,**

Fort Worth is facing serious challenges with respect to keeping up with the demand for new or improved roads, but some help is on the way.

Thanks to voters, the 2008 \$150 million bond program was approved in May. This bond program will help reconstruct neighborhood streets, arterial streets, bridges, fix traffic signals and improve several major intersections. Additionally, the City Council allocated all of the expected unrestricted natural gas well revenue (roughly \$15 million over the next four years) toward additional street improvements.

Combine these new funds with the \$120 million worth of street projects included in last year's Critical Capital Needs Package, and we're looking at a total of \$285 million in street and arterial roadway improvements.

Still, the challenge of maintaining and building streets remains enormous. All told, the city is facing \$1 billion in current street needs citywide. Nevertheless, this City Council is committed to working with citizens to find answers.

One such answer is transportation impact fees. These fees were adopted by council and became effective July 1. They will ensure developers contribute more toward the cost of arterial streets when building new subdivisions.

Increasing highway capacity is another major initiative, particularly throughout the I-35W and north Loop 820 corridors. Fortunately, we're making progress on the North Tarrant Express, a project that will add additional lanes (some of which will be tolled) to I-35W, North Loop 820 and State Highway 183/121. I recently testified at a public hearing before the state in favor of moving forward quickly with the \$2 billion North Tarrant Express plan. I think our message was delivered, and we can look forward to turning dirt sooner rather than later.

Rail is another efficient and effective way to reduce traffic and improve air quality. Local leaders are working hard on a plan to bring convenient regional commuter rail service to our communities.

A major starting point for this rail service is the Fort Worth Transportation

Authority's Southwest to Northeast commuter rail line. This project will add rail service from southwest Fort Worth, through the Medical District and downtown, through Northside and then on to Grapevine and DFW Airport. Additionally, the City Council appointed a committee to determine the feasibility of a new streetcar system in Fort Worth.

Complicating many of our current challenges is that we're heading into one of the city's most difficult budget years. The Barnett Shale is not a cure all for the city budget, so the City Council is doing everything possible to ensure our city operates in the most efficient manner. In doing so, we will maintain vital city services and keep our city moving forward.

This summer, let us enjoy the time with our families and remember that while Fort Worth is now a city of more than 700,000 people, our quality of life remains special because we are neighbors and we care about each other as well as our community.

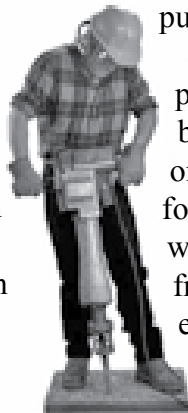
Respectfully,



# Voters approve \$150 million bond program

Fort Worth voters approved a \$150 million bond program in May that will be dedicated to street improvements across the city.

The 2008 bond program provides \$81 million for arterial streets, \$33 million for neighborhood streets, \$22.2 million for bridges, \$7.5 million for traffic lights and other intersections improvements and \$6.3 million for



transportation grants and the city's public art program.

A detailed description of the projects identified for the 2008 bond program can be viewed on the city's Web site at [www.fortworthgov.org](http://www.fortworthgov.org). The projects were chosen using feedback from residents, need, cost effectiveness and other criteria.

Additionally, parity among council districts was taken into consideration.

The 2008 bond program is a

response to citizen requests for new and improved roadways. \$150 million was the amount available for the 2008 bond program without raising taxes.

Although city staff has begun work to implement 2008 bond program projects, it will take about a year before actual construction begins and several years for completion.

Also, work continues on the six-year 2004 Bond Program, scheduled to be complete in 2010.

## So, where's all that Barnett Shale money going?

Members of the Fort Worth City Council are often asked, "Why is the city facing tight budgets with all of the money generated from the Barnett Shale?"

The answer is simple: Roughly 95 percent of the revenue generated from publicly owned gas wells is restricted. This money, according to current federal, state and local statutes, must be saved or used only to improve the properties under which the revenues were generated. That's why, for example, we've seen a great many improvements to local parks.

Only about 4.7 percent of the money expected to come from these gas leases is unrestricted under current policies. Over the next four years, that 4.7 percent is projected to be about \$15 million, and the City Council has dedicated these funds to greatly needed street improvements.

Because the vast majority of gas well revenues are restricted,



this money cannot be used to fill gaps in the city's General Fund budget, for example.

Another factor to keep in mind is that gas well revenues won't last forever. Gas production will diminish and so will royalty payments. Eventually, the money stream will run dry. With that in mind, the City Council and others believe the best use of these dollars is to spend it on one-time, long-term capital needs,

like improvements to parks, streets and other city facilities and save the rest in a permanent fund to leave a legacy for future generations.

Hiring additional city staff or supporting important city services with gas well revenues could pose a problem in the future. That's because these people or programs would eventually have to be cut or reduced once gas well revenues decline.

The Barnett Shale is expected to provide the city with opportunities related to specific, one-time capital improvements. But, as Mayor Mike Moncrief often says, "The Barnett Shale is not a panacea or a cure-all."

Nevertheless, the Fort Worth City Council and city staff continue to look for innovative ways to use the Barnett Shale to support greatly needed capital improvements throughout the city while protecting our neighborhoods through a balanced well-crafted gas well drilling ordinance.

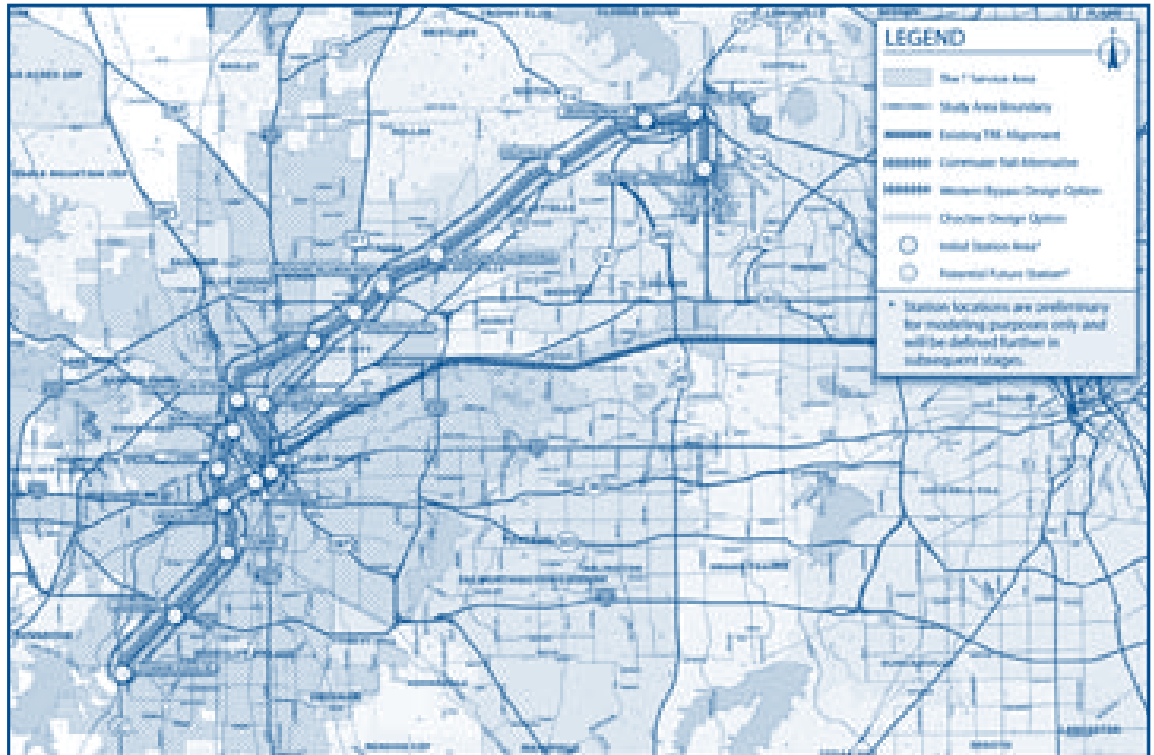
# There's a train in your future ...

The Fort Worth Transportation Authority (also known as The T) is working with local leaders to develop plans for a rail line in the Southwest-to-Northeast Rail Corridor across Tarrant County.

Gas prices are pushing many to look for other transportation alternatives, and commuter rail is expected to be the future people mover of Fort Worth and Tarrant County.

The proposed commuter route follows existing rail lines from Sycamore School Road in southwest Fort Worth, through downtown Fort Worth, northeast to downtown Grapevine and then into the north entrance of Dallas-Fort Worth Airport.

Planning and developing a rail line takes a lot of planning and activity by a lot of people—including you. Like any complex project, the Southwest-to-Northeast Rail Corridor is best approached as a series of steps. The current step involves compiling environmental information and



performing preliminary engineering. As the “footprint” of the proposed route emerges through initial design, the study team will document natural, cultural, historical, archaeological and social environments along the route.

While professional scientists and others will be gathering data, you — the residents of Fort Worth — are the ones who can tell officials how the train and its passenger stations and other facilities will affect your community, your commute and your environment.

The Southwest-to-Northeast Rail Corridor is an ambitious project. If the project proceeds as planned, this rail line could be operating as early as 2012. The current portion — the environmental study and basic engineering — will be completed soon, with additional engineering work to occur throughout 2008 and into 2009.

For more information about how to get involved with the Southwest-to-Northeast Rail Corridor Project, visit [www.sw2nerail.com](http://www.sw2nerail.com) or call The T at 817-215-8785.

## Filing a police report just got a bit easier in FW

**There's a new way to file a report with the Fort Worth Police Department. The Internet is now available to file police reports for theft, harassing phone calls, identity theft, vandalism, criminal mischief and lost property where no suspect information is available.**

**The online reporting system can be accessed through the Fort Worth Police Department's Web**

**site at [www.forthworthpd.com](http://www.forthworthpd.com). Click on “File a Report Online.”**

**The new system, available in both English and Spanish, offers convenience for those wanting to make a report, and saves valuable police time and manpower. Fort Worth police will continue to take reports in person or by telephone if there is suspect information or leads.**

# Animal Care and Control officers begin neighborhood sweeps

The Fort Worth Animal Care and Control Division recently began conducting sweeps as part of the Safe Neighborhoods for People and Pets campaign. Animal Care and Control officers hope this effort will help residents understand the importance of being a responsible pet owner.



in May, and officers are focusing on finding pet owners not in compliance with Animal Care and Control ordinances.

During the first pilot run of the program in north Fort Worth, officers picked up 13 stray dogs and two stray cats. They also left 27 door hangers

and issued nine citations to out-of-compliance pet owners.

The sweep took place after residents in the area were sent postcards to make them aware of the campaign. Residents also were notified using the city's reverse 911 telephone messaging system.

Animal Care and Control officials hope soon to expand the program to other parts of the city. For more information about how you can make sure your pets are in compliance with Animal Care and Control laws, call 817-392-3737.

Being a responsible pet owner means making sure pets have a city license and are vaccinated for rabies. It also means that pets have access to clean food, water and shelter. Letting pets run loose in neighborhoods is not being responsible, and it can pose a threat to children and adults.

The sweeps are intended to educate the residents and impound any stray animals found roaming the neighborhood. Canvassing began

## What it means to be a responsible pet owner

1. Select the right pet to fit your particular situation.
2. Spay or neuter your pet.
3. Vaccinate your pet for rabies and make sure your dog or cat wears proper rabies vaccination identification at all times.
4. Make sure your pet has a city license and wears it at all times. A city license costs \$7 and may be obtained by visiting a participating local veterinarian or from the Animal Care and Control Center, 4900 Martin St.
5. Provide clean food, water, shelter and regular caring human interaction.
6. Provide access to medical care when needed.
7. Train and socialize your pets.
8. Ensure your pets are behind a secure enclosure, such as a fence, at all times.

## Roadside sale of animals no longer permitted

Looking for a new pet once was as easy as taking a drive down the street, but a new city ordinance now prohibits the roadside sale of animals — and for good reason.

The ordinance was recently approved by the Fort Worth City Council to curb the public health and safety risks associated with the sale of animals by unregulated vendors operating at roadside or other temporary outdoor venues.

Each year, the Animal Care and Control Division receives numerous complaints from residents who have purchased an animal sold as a specific breed or pedigree and who have no way to

contact the seller after learning that the information provided was not factual.

And if an animal is sold with a disease such as distemper or rabies, there is no way to trace the origin of the pet or notify people who might have been exposed to the diseased animal.

Also, traffic and other hazards posed by roadside vendors are a concern.

The city's new ordinance makes it illegal to sell, exchange, trade, barter, lease, rent, give away or display for a commercial purpose any live animal. This includes animals being displayed at a roadside, public right

of way, parkway, median, park, playground, swimming pool, other recreational area, flea market, or commercial or retail parking lot that is generally accessible to the public.

Exceptions are provided for animal rescue organizations, pet stores and other scientific, educational and entertainment entities that display but don't sell or give away animals.

Anyone violating the ban on roadside sales could face a fine as high as \$2,000 for each offense. For more information regarding the ban, call the Animal Care and Control Division at 817-392-3737.

# City Council approves plan to end chronic homelessness

For more than two years, the Mayor and City Council have rallied for the development of a plan to end chronic homelessness in Fort Worth. In response, the Fort Worth Mayor's Advisory Commission on Homelessness was created in October 2005 and given the charge to create a plan that would end chronic homelessness. The Commission used the experiences of service providers, the homeless and best practices across the country to develop a plan that best fits the needs of Fort Worth. The Commission heard public comment during the month of May and incorporated the feedback into the final version of the plan and submitted it to the City Council and the public in June.

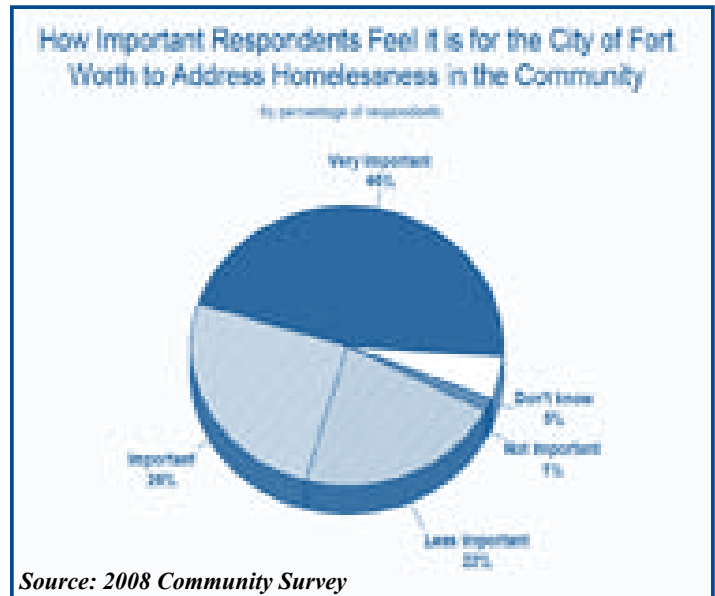
After receiving overwhelming support from the public and various homelessness service providers, the plan was adopted by the City Council on June 17.

The plan, entitled *Directions Home: Making Homelessness Rare, Short-term and Non-recurring in Fort Worth, Texas within Ten Years*, has seven main strategies that will be implemented in the coming years. The strategies include:

1. Increase the supply of permanent supportive housing.
2. Expand opportunities and services linked with accountability.
3. Develop and operate a Central Resource Facility.
4. Coordinate and expand homelessness prevention initiatives.
5. Support and strengthen existing public, private and faith-based efforts.
6. Mitigate the negative community impacts of homelessness.
7. Lead, educate and advocate for change.

The vision is that homelessness will be a *rare, short-term and non-recurring* experience in Fort Worth, Texas by the year 2018.

More than 6,300 people experience homelessness in Tarrant



County each year—more than 4,000 at any point in time. Combined, the public and private sectors spent more than \$30 million responding to homelessness issues in fiscal year 2007 in Tarrant County; unfortunately, only 33 percent of these dollars were spent on programs to end homelessness. The new plan aims to replace those services that only *manage* homelessness with supportive services that *end* homelessness such as housing, rental assistance, case management, life skills development and counseling.

To review the plan or to find out how you, your neighborhood or congregation can get involved, visit the City of Fort Worth online at [www.fortworthgov.org/homelessness](http://www.fortworthgov.org/homelessness) or contact the Homelessness Office at 817-392-7552.

## Residents have a say in Fort Worth's future

It happened in 1963 and '92. Now, it's happening again — a citywide conversation to stimulate dialogue among Fort Worth residents.

Appropriately called *Let's Talk Fort Worth*, the citizen-driven event has included a series of planning and discussion meetings, culminating this fall in a big town hall meeting that will generate ideas, suggestions and dreams to help shape the city's future for the next 20 years. And you're invited!

The big event starts at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 25 at the Will Rogers Memorial Center Auditorium, 3401 W. Lancaster Ave.

*Let's Talk Fort Worth* is an opportunity for each of the more than 700,000 residents to tell the mayor and City Council how we can work together to make Fort Worth even better. Mayor Mike Moncrief and City Council members are invited to attend the citywide conversation on Sept. 25 to hear residents' comments.

"We want to hear the concerns, observations and suggestions of our residents as to how we can make the best city in the country even better for future generations," Moncrief said.

Today, Fort Worth boasts a population of more than 700,000 and

is the 17<sup>th</sup> largest city in the country, with more people moving in every day. Still, Fort Worth has a few challenges including expansive growth, traffic congestion and air quality, just to name a few. And, just as they did in 1963 and 1992, city leaders believe it's time to talk again.

You'll have the opportunity to share your vision for Fort Worth's future in person at the Sept. 25 event or in writing via e-mail or regular U.S. mail. You also can submit ideas, suggestions and dreams for Fort Worth's future by calling the TalkLine at 817-392-2008.

For more information, go to [www.LetsTalkFortWorth.org](http://www.LetsTalkFortWorth.org).

# Public Art Program boosts city's visual appeal

Public art can make a city stand out in the minds of residents and visitors alike. And for a city known for its cowboys and culture, public art is a priority.

That's why the city created the Fort Worth Public Art (FWPA) program in 2001 to provide dedicated funding to bring form and function to the city's public spaces.

The FWPA program started with a commitment from City Council to allocate 2 percent of the total cost of future bond programs for public art. The 2004 CIP generated more than \$4 million for public art and design enhancements associated with capital projects. The 2008 bond program recently approved by voters earmarks another \$3 million for design enhancements on streets and bridges.

FWPA has more than three dozen projects currently under

way, including the Avenue of Light for the median of Lancaster Avenue and Parking in Color at the Fort Worth Convention Center parking garage.

A new initiative, Community ID:

Public Art in Neighborhoods, soon will add projects of neighborhood significance at two more locations.

Council District 2 has received public art funds for the Vaquero Sculpture, the restoration of the mural at the Northside Branch Library, improvements to Rodeo Plaza in the Stockyards and work on the Lebow Channel. Also, thanks to the public art program, artwork will be added to Fire Station No. 38 (Alliance Gateway and Park Vista), Fire Station No.



34 (Sendra Ranch), Fire Station No. 11 (Northwest ISD campus) and the North Park Community Center (Shiver and Beach).

FWPA projects benefit the city by creating an enhanced visual environment and commemorating the city's rich cultural and ethnic diversity. Public art also promotes tourism and economic vitality through the artistic design of public spaces.

For more information about FWPA visit [www.fwpublicart.org](http://www.fwpublicart.org).

# City Council launches modern streetcar study

The modern-day street car may prove to be another opportunity to move commuters, reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality in Fort Worth. Knowing this, the City Council recently appointed a 15-member committee charged with determining the feasibility of developing a modern streetcar network.

The network would be a part of the overall public transit system under development and would be connected to commuter rail and other modes of public transportation here in the city.

The members of the newly formed committee will review Fort Worth's previous streetcar studies; take a look at successful light rail



and streetcar systems in other cities (like Portland, Seattle and Tacoma); and conduct a preliminary assessment of costs and benefits.

While the benefits of a new streetcar system are obvious, there are many challenges to such a system, not the least of which is the cost associated with

installing various streetcar stations and the required overhead electric power supply.

The City Council, officials with the Fort Worth Transportation Authority, along with the members of the Streetcar Committee recently began their work with a trip to Dallas via the Trinity Railway Express to ride the DART transit system and tour Mockingbird Station, one of the country's

foremost examples of transit-oriented developments. Other discovery trips to Portland, Seattle and Tacoma will take place in the coming months.

The committee is expected to present their findings to the city council by December.

If the study committee determines that a streetcar system is desirable for Fort Worth, they will work with the City Council and city staff to identify a pilot corridor, potential funding sources and prepare a preliminary funding strategy.

In 2002, the city approved a streetcar proposal but was unable to acquire the needed funding for the system. At the time, the plan was for the proposed streetcar system to connect downtown with the Cultural District, the Stockyards, and the near south and southeast portions of the city.

# City Council reconvenes Gas Drilling Task Force

With two years since the last major update to the city’s Gas Drilling Ordinance, and with more than 1,000 permitted gas wells within the city limits, the Fort Worth City Council believed it was time to once again to take another look at how the city’s regulates drilling for natural gas.

With gas production inching closer and closer to neighborhoods, several new challenges have surfaced since the Gas Drilling Ordinance was revised back in 2006. To make sure the city is doing everything possible to protect the quality of life for its residents, the City Council called for the Gas Drilling Task Force to be reconvened.

The 18-member Task Force—comprised of community, business and gas industry representatives—will review and make recommendations for ordinance revisions related to several key issues. Those 10 topics include:

- Noise
- Protected Use Definitions
- Pipelines
- Public notice
- Process
- Setbacks



- Compressors
- Enhanced Standards by Well Classification
- Environmental Impacts
- Road Impacts

The Gas Drilling Task Force will be meeting through the month of September and expects to bring formal recommendations to the City Council by the end of the year.

To find out more about the Gas Drilling Task Force and to look at a schedule of meetings, visit the city’s Web site at: [www.fortworthgov.org/gaswells](http://www.fortworthgov.org/gaswells).

## Helpful Numbers

This section is included to help residents find direct access to some of the most needed services.

If additional assistance is needed, please contact District 2 Office.

<b>Report crime or non-emergency requests</b> .....	Police .....	817-335-4222
<b>Trash, recycling, brush, bulky waste</b> .....	Environmental Management .....	817-392-3279
<b>Barking dogs, animal abuse, dead animal, lost or found pet</b> .....	Animal Care and Control .....	817-392-3737
<b>High weeds and grass, junk vehicles, debris, open and vacant structures</b> .....	Code Compliance .....	817-392-1234 <a href="http://www.fortworthgov.org/codecompliance">www.fortworthgov.org/codecompliance</a>
<b>Sidewalks, speed bumps, school zones, curbs</b> .....	Transportation and Public Works .....	817-392-8100
<b>Water service, billing, sewer issues</b> .....	Water .....	817-392-4477
<b>Permits, inspections, licensing</b> .....	Development .....	817-392-7820
<b>Construction services, engineering</b> .....	Engineering .....	817-392-8306
<b>Housing services, concerns, complaints</b> .....	Housing .....	817-392-7546



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