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MOVING FORWARD IN DISTRICT 5

There's been a considerable amount of activity in District 5 over the first half of 2008. Many projects are moving forward, and we're making every effort to provide more forums and informational opportunities for our citizens.

One of our major goals is to ensure that everyone in District 5 is being served. Fortunately, we've made progress in getting many of our poor streets into the 2008 Bond Program and in last year's Critical Capital Needs Improvement Program. Add that to our significant progress in completing street and drainage projects from the 2004 Bond Program.

With citizen support, we're also moving forward with zoning changes to bring the current zoning in line with actual land use. We plan to initiate a very active program over the next year to bring zoning in line with our Comprehensive Plan. The majority of the older areas of District 5 are zoned B2 Family. This zoning has encouraged the construction of duplexes

in many of our older neighborhoods. The design of these structures has shown some innovation, but they aren't the kind of housing product we want to see in our neighborhoods. Now, many of these duplexes are vacant, boarded up or vandalized.

The current effort to initiate zoning changes in the core of our district (including Stop Six, East Wood and Poly) will give citizens more power when it comes to what other types of housing can be located in their neighborhoods.

We're also addressing problems with the current zoning along Trinity Blvd. from Precinct Line Rd. all the way to the Dallas County line. A significant amount of development has taken place along Trinity Blvd. and the current industrial zoning in some sections isn't conducive to residential and commercial development. Fort Worth, Arlington and Euless have been meeting to share ideas on how to work together to accomplish some common goals.

Housing development

and redevelopment is still a major area of concern in District 5, but another major concern is intensifying economic development. In that respect, we will be focusing on the Stalcup/Berry Urban Village, Ramey/820 area, Handley/Lancaster (Handley Urban Village), Miller Avenue (between Berry and Hwy 287/Martin Luther King Freeway) and Eastchase/I-30.

I also want to mention that we've been working with the school system very closely to insure the quality of our schools. We're pleased with the changes we've seen so far. We believe improving schools will not only help our young people succeed, but also encourage positive investment in our neighborhoods.

Overall, we're making improvements one small step at a time. But when considering all of the successes together, we can see major progress in moving our communities forward.

Franklin D. Moss
Sincerely,
Frank Moss

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 equal to about \$15 million, and the city council has dedicated these funds to greatly needed street improvements.

Because the vast majority of



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

Furthermore, gas well revenues won't last forever. At some point, the royalties will diminish and eventually go away. 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.

If new city hires or important city services were supported by gas well revenues, they would eventually have to be cut or reduced once gas well revenues declined.

The Barnett-Shale is expected to provide the city with a wealth of opportunities related to specific, one-time capital improvements. But, as Mayor Mike Moncrief often says, “The Barnett Shale is not 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 improvements throughout the city.

Education resources available for residents looking for answers about the Barnett Shale

The Barnett Shale Energy Education Council (BSEEC) is a community resource that provides information to the public about gas drilling and production in the Barnett Shale region.

The goal of the council is to be a source of information and to provide answers to questions regarding the opportunities and issues related to urban drilling in the Barnett Shale. Its intent is to

provide fact-based information from sources such as industry, government, organizations and institutions of higher education.

The BSEEC strives to be a central point of information for the community about everything related to the Barnett Shale as gas exploration and production progresses and evolves over time.

In addition to providing consistent and accurate

education about the natural gas industry, the council also works together, as well as with support and contracted companies, on best practices in operations, community relations and other issues important to the communities they serve.

The educational resources available from the BSEEC are available online at www.bseec.org, or you can contact the council by calling 817-336-8789.

New program giving people shot at Barnett Shale jobs

The Fort Worth Hispanic Chamber of Commerce has begun taking applications for the Roustabout Training Program. The three week program is held Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Fort Worth Opportunity Center located at 5901 Fitzhugh.

The program will provide skills for an entry level job into the booming Barnett Shale industry. The first class of 12 students graduated on July 14 and all were placed with employment.

August 1 is the anticipated graduation of the second class. Devon Energy is sponsoring the training and Tarrant County College is actually providing the training.

Upon completion of the Roustabout Training Program, applicants will receive a preferential interview with the following companies: Devon Energy, Richey Oilfield

Construction and David Rogers Construction.

For further information, please contact the Fort Worth Hispanic Chamber of Commerce at 817-625-5411 and ask for Victor M. Garcia.



Citizens get a lesson on natural gas leasing

More than 140 residents showed up for the second Gas Well Leasing Workshop on July 7 sponsored by the District 5 office. The workshop took place in the activity room of the Eugene McCray Community Center.

Attorney Bob West of Whitaker, Chalk, Swindle &

Sawyer, LLP gave a presentation on tips, suggestions and general knowledge about leasing to residents who have yet to sign leases.

If you were unable to attend the workshop, please call the District 5 office at 817-392-8805 for the Gas Well Leasing Workshop handout that was distributed.

Residents get lesson on emergency preparedness

On May 31, the District 5 office held a Preparedness Seminar at the Holy Tabernacle Church of God In Christ. Approximately 60 people showed up for this important learning experience.

Oncor's "Take a Load off Texas" program, Community Action Partners, Housing Department and the Bioterrorism Health Emergency Preparedness Team shared their expertise and knowledge with residents about energy saving tips and how to be prepared in emergency situations.

Residents were treated with bags filled with energy efficient light bulbs, refrigerator magnets and tips on how to save energy.



2008 Street Improvement Program (District 5)

Street	Limit
Quinn St.	Christine Ave. to McKenzie St.
Hanger Ave.	Burchill Rd. to Thrall Ct.
Hanger Ave.	Thrall Ct. to Vaughn Blvd.
Christine Ave.	Burchill Rd. to Quinn St.
Christine Ave.	Quinn St. to Christine Ct.
Christine Ct.	Quinn St. to McKenzie St.
Hatcher St.	Forbs St. to E. Berry St.
Hanger Ave.	S. Collard St. to Bishop St.
Hanger Ave.	Bishop St. to E. Dead End
Richardson St.	S. Hughes Ave. to S. Edgewood Ter.
Strong Ave.	Vaughn Blvd. to S. Collard St.
Strong Ave.	S. Collard St. to Bishop St.
Strong Ave.	Bishop St. to Little St.
Strong Ave.	Little St. to Campbell St.
Dowdell St.	Baylor St. to MLK Fwy.
Parker-Henderson Rd.	Construct 3-lane arterial with sidewalks from Mansfield Hwy. to David Strickland Rd.
Lakeshore Dr.	Construct 4-lane arterial from Wilbarger St. to Berry St.

2007 Critical Street Needs Program (District 5)

Street	Limit
Bideker Ave.	MLK Fwy. to Bishop St.
Bright St.	E Berry St. to Reed St.
Burton Ave.	Vaughn Blvd. to Campbell St.
Avenue M.	Miller Ave. to S Hughes Ave.
Edgewood Ter. S.	Judy Ln. to Hampshire Blvd.
Valley Vista Dr.	100 Hwy. 10 to E. Hurst Blvd. (Hwy 10)
Capers Ave.	Stalcup Rd to Farrel Ln.
Osborne Ln.	S. Hampshire Blvd. to Old Handley Rd.
Ramson Ter.	Maceo Ln. to Truman Dr.
Plant Ave.	Craig St. to Cravens Rd.

2004 Street Improvement Program (District 5)

Street	Limit	Status
Andrew Ave.	Elgin St. to Booker T St.	Construction
Canberra Ct.	Thannish Ave. to Berry Hill Dr.	Complete
Canton Dr.	Meadowbrook Blvd. to Craig St.	Design
Chickasaw Ave.	Shackleford St. to Miller Ave.	Construction
Church St.	Louise St. to Handley Dr.	Design
Dallas Ave.	Benton Ave. to E. Lancaster Ave.	Construction
Donalee St.	Reed St. to MLK Fwy.	Complete
Eastover Ave.	Avenue N to Ramey Ave.	Construction
Forbes St.	Miller Ave. to Hatcher St.	Construction

2004 Street Improvement Program (District 5) continued

Street	Limit	Status
Griggs Ave.	Forbes St. to E. Berry St.	Construction
Halbert St.	Craig St. to Routt St.	Design
Hatcher Ave.	Quails Ln. to Hardeman St.	Construction
Heitt Ct.	W. Dead End to Canton Dr.	Construction
Heitt Ct.	Weiler Blvd. to E. Cul De Sac	Construction
Hitson Ln.	Meadowbrook Dr. to Acapulco Rd.	Complete
S. Hughes Ave.	Ida Way to MLK Fwy.	Complete
Ida Way	Hillside Ave. to S. Hughes Ave.	Complete
Jennifer Ct.	Eastland St. to Eastland St.	Construction
Killian St.	Shackleford St. to MLK Fwy.	Complete
Langston St.	Strong Ave. to Burton Ave.	Complete
Liberty St.	Calumet St. to Willie St.	Construction
Lois St.	Sydney St. to E. Dead End	Construction
Millet Ave.	Bishop St. to Campbell St.	Construction
Millet Ave.	Wallace St. to Dillow St.	Construction
Norris St.	Crouch Ave. to E. Dead End	Construction
Saunders Rd.	Marie Jones Rd. to E. Loop 820 S.	Construction
Sun Valley Dr.	East Loop 820 to Kay Dr.	Complete
Sydney St.	East Berry St. to Reed St.	Construction
Winnie St.	Dallas Ave. to S. Hampshire Blvd.	Complete
Whitehall St.	Miller Ave. to Pate Dr.	Construction
Van Natta Ln.	Muse St. to Janice Ln.	Design

Regulating gas wells and pipelines in Fort Worth

In June of 2006, the City Council adopted a revised ordinance to regulate the drilling and operation of natural gas wells in Fort Worth.

The city's jurisdiction to regulate pipelines within the city is a bit more complicated, and in most cases, according to state and federal law, the city cannot completely ban natural gas pipelines.

With respect to gas wells, the State of Texas holds that mineral rights are dominant over surface rights. This is an important distinction, and sets the legal bar for how much the city can regulate drilling.

According to the city's current drilling ordinance, gas wells cannot be located closer than 600-feet from a protected use (home, school, church, hospital, public building or public park). However, this distance can be reduced with either a City Council

variance or by waivers granted by all protected use property owners within a 600-foot radius.

State law says a gas well cannot be placed closer than 200 feet from a protected use.

The ordinance also regulates noise and the appearance of gas drilling sites.

For the most part, pipeline companies are considered gas utilities and are responsible for delivering energy across the state and nation. Because of this, the city is limited on how it can regulate the placement of pipelines.

Regulation of pipelines in the state is controlled by the Texas Railroad Commission. All pipeline companies must receive a permit from the commission prior to installation. All aspects of pipeline safety within Texas are regulated by the commission.

While the city can't ban pipelines, cities can suggest alternative street

routes and control the depth and location of the pipeline in the streets in order to avoid interference with other existing utilities. The law also allows cities to charge for the placement, construction, operation, or use of a gas pipeline in city streets.

Nevertheless, gas utilities have the statutory right to acquire private or publicly-owned property by eminent domain for placement of pipelines.

The city is considering changes to the city code that would require pipeline companies to meet with the city prior to exercising eminent domain over private property to provide an opportunity for dialogue regarding more preferred routes.

Additionally, the city will be urging the State legislature to mandate additional funds for the Railroad Commission to hire more pipeline inspectors.

New Chickasaw Electrical office open for business



In May, Mayor Mike Moncrief, Councilmember Frank Moss and others cut the ribbon on the new Chickasaw Electric offices located at 4108 Amon Carter Blvd.

Housing Trust Fund improving homes in Fort Worth

Last year the City Council authorized the creation of a housing trust fund with an objective to address, in part, the housing needs of the city's very low, low and moderate income families. At the time, the cost for housing needs across the city was estimated at \$1.8 billion dollars.

While development continues at a record pace, especially in outlying areas, a great need for quality affordable housing has arisen in central city communities.

The Fort Worth Housing Trust Fund was established to foster a mix of family incomes in projects assisted by the fund and encourage disbursement of new affordable housing developments in the city.

An initial investment of \$4 million in city funds leveraged Federal HOME Grant Funds and Community Development Block Grant Funds to get the trust fund started. The Fort Worth Housing Finance Corporation (FWHFC) administers the fund.

The FWHFC adopts an annual plan describing the source and use of the fund's activities for the upcoming year based on the recommendation of the Central City Revitalization and Community Development Committee and final authorization by the City Council.

Thanks to the Housing Trust Fund, the Homeowner Loan Program is providing Fort Worth home owners or occupants with home improvement loans that increase the safety of the dwelling, maintain the structures and help build value to the properties.

The Housing Developer Fund is another program supported by the Housing Trust Fund. This initiative provides construction loans with favorable terms to encourage housing sponsors to construct and rehabilitate residential projects that are affordable to low and moderate income families in Fort Worth's Central City.

For more information about the Housing Trust Fund, please call the

Housing Department at 817-392-7540.

Weatherization Assistance Program helping residents beat the elements

Weather changes can cause dramatic and expensive increases in your home utility bills. Thankfully there is help available.

The city's Weatherization Assistance Program is designed to help income-eligible home owners in Fort Worth and Tarrant County make their homes more energy efficient.

Weatherization activities include but are not limited to attic and wall installation, weather stripping, exterior door repair/replacement and caulking.

If you or someone you know is interested in additional information, please call the Housing Department at 817-392-7540.

Helpful Numbers

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

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

We want to hear from you!

Please use this form to send your comments about pressing issues in our District. You can remain anonymous if you choose. Once you have completed this form, place it in a stamped envelope and mail it to: The City of Fort Worth, Council District 5, 1000 Throckmorton St., Fort Worth, TX 76102. You can also submit comments or suggestions by e-mail at district5newsletter@fortworthgov.org.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Comments: _____



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