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Hope, Progress and CHANGE!



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Dear fellow District 8 resident,

The year 2008 was another exciting time for our district! Indeed, George Bernard Shaw once stated that “Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything.” Change was a crucial theme this past year as a new president was chosen in a historic election. Locally, positive change continued to ring throughout our district.

The last quarter of 2008 saw many more groundbreakings across the district. Mayor Moncrief, numerous city staff and community advocates joined me on a crisp October day to break ground on the new Hazel Harvey Peace Center for Neighborhoods on the corner of Terrell and I-35 (see more on page 3).

In November, I joined federal and state officials to break ground for the new multi-million dollar Veterans Hospital. The facility near Campus and Loop 820 will serve veterans from across north Texas.

A few days later we celebrated more positive change with the opening of the newly renovated Baker Building on the campus

of Texas Wesleyan University. The renovation reflects the significant progress in the Polytechnic Urban Village. Thanks to public and private partnerships, the area is coming alive with the TWU bookstore, and other commercial development to come this year in buildings along East Rosedale that have stood empty for far too long.

November also saw the *Go Gateway!* Celebration as hundreds of residents came out to enjoy this great east side park which soon will boast numerous new improvements for all of Fort Worth to enjoy. Also the City Council recently approved the Neighborhood Empowerment Zone for West Meadowbrook. This important milestone will encourage reinvestment in East Fort Worth.

Finally, I was delighted to take part in the ceremony in which All Church Home for Children (ACH) celebrated their move to the old Masonic Home Campus at MLK Freeway and East Berry. As a proud



board member of ACH, I can tell you that this organization is setting the bar for quality programs in child welfare that are dramatically strengthening families and reducing child abuse. ACH will invest well over \$10 million to improve the campus and will be a vital anchor in our District 8 community. We welcome them!

I could go on and on about all the positive change occurring throughout our wonderful district. I thank you, as citizens, for leading the way on these and other improvements.

Until next time, Onward and Upward District 8!!

Kathleen

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Retail development project brings new life to Poly

For many years, the buildings along the 3000 block of Rosedale were considered hazardous to public health and safety. They were a nuisance. But today, thanks to the Polytechnic Urban Village designation and some great partners, this retail strip has been transformed into yet another example of the community's vision: Protecting historical assets while promoting economic vitality and community sustainability.

The Poly retail redevelopment project will greatly benefit nearby residents, Texas Wesleyan University and its students. It will add greatly needed restaurants, shops and professional office space to East Rosedale.

"We're preserving that special civic pride thanks to the countless partners who have been instrumental in helping us revive this historical corridor. Real and positive change is on the horizon," stated Kathleen Hicks.

Recent economic studies have shown that southeast Fort Worth is an underserved market and has the population and income to support new development. This is development that this community deserves, and the Poly Retail project is another milestone as the southeast Fort Worth renaissance continues.

The university's bookstore will be the first to occupy one of the retail spaces. The bookstore will feature 4,000 square feet of retail space. Follett, a college bookstore operator, will run the bookstore and sell clothing, textbooks and snack items. The city is optimistic that other new retail will follow.

Poly retail strip before and after renovation.



Public and private investment amounts to \$1.5 million along with an additional \$1 million in HUD grant funds from the Housing and Economic Development Department.

Texas Wesleyan also used some of this money to renovate the Baker Building across the street at the corner of Wesleyan and Rosedale.

The building was once used as the TWU's theatre set shop. The renovated building will house an art gallery and faculty offices.

This is an exciting endeavor, and the new book store along with other future tenants will keep the synergy alive and spur further economic development in the area! ♦

All Church Home moving in

The All Church Home for Children (ACH) celebrated their move to the old Masonic Home Campus at MLK Freeway and East Berry. ACH will invest more than \$10



million to improve the campus and will serve as an anchor for future development. ACH provides a continuum of services for children

and families through residential group care, foster group care, after-care, in-home care and respite services.

Hazel Harvey Peace Center for Neighborhoods

Marian Wright Edelman once said “When I fight about what is going on in the neighborhood, or when I fight about what is happening to other people’s children, I’m doing that because I want to leave a community and a world that is better than the one I found.”

Fort Worth, our country and the world lost a great champion and advocate of literacy with the passing of Mrs. Hazel Harvey Peace in 2008. Mrs. Peace was a zealous advocate for education and was the first African-American woman to have a professorship named for her: The University of North Texas’ Hazel Harvey Peace Professorship in Children’s Library Services.

But as the Fort Worth community mourns this great loss, the fruits of her legacy live on. Most recently, the legacy of Mrs. Peace was honored on October 25 with a naming ceremony for a new municipal building located at 818 Missouri Avenue in the Evans and Rosedale corridor.

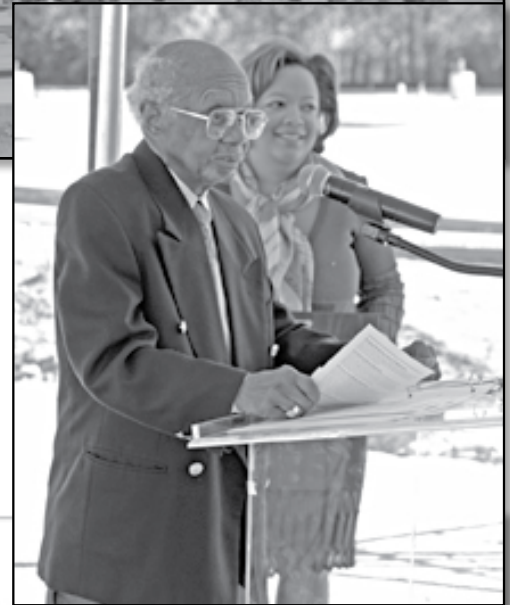
The Hazel Harvey Peace Center for Neighborhoods will be home to the city’s Code Compliance and Community Relations departments. It will also include a Neighborhood Policing District storefront.

The 36,800 square-foot building is scheduled to be completed in late 2009. As the city’s first building designed to meet the Leadership in Environmental Excellence Design (LEED) Silver Standard. It will house a 1,200 square-foot public meeting room, which is very needed in Southeast Fort Worth.

The two-story building will



Mayor Pro Tem Hicks joins community activists, residents and city staff for the naming ceremony for the Hazel Harvey Peace Center for neighborhoods.



feature five art sculptures designed by award winning artist, Floyd E. Newsum. His work can be found in several public settings including Texas Southern University,

University of Houston-Downtown, the Museum of Fine Arts Houston and the Art Museum of South Texas in Corpus Christi.

Onward and Upward: District 8! ♦

Southeast Fort Worth, Inc says “Thank You”

Southeast Fort Worth, Inc. held a reception to thank donors and supporters. At the event, Wachovia Foundation presented a \$20,000 check to Southeast Fort Worth, Inc. Kathleen Hicks was surprised with the 2008 Southeast Fort Worth Economic Development Ambassador of the Year Award in recognition for her dedication and leadership in the Southeast Community. ♦



What to do about Door-to-Door “Crisis Solicitation”

There has been an increase in the number of complaints concerning crisis solicitation in neighborhoods. So, what exactly is “crisis solicitation” and how do we know when we are being manipulated into giving to a fraudulent cause?

A crisis solicitor will make up a fictitious story involving the need for money to purchase gas to take someone to the hospital, attend a funeral or to make it to their first day of work. Some have been known to ask for money to pay for diapers for a child.

If approached at your home or apartment by one of these “crisis solicitors,” the first defensive measure is to not open the door to strangers. Speaking through the door is socially permissible and a reasonable person would not take offense unless they harbor ulterior motives.

If you are suspicious of their behavior, immediately call 911. If you are accustomed to talking with people through your door, attempt

to ascertain the purpose of their visit.

If they claim that they have an emergency, tell them that you will call the police for them. If they claim they cannot hear you through the door but you can hear them, call 911. Never step out of your residence to speak to a stranger.

Make sure your door is locked before leaving to pick up the phone to call 911. Provide as good of a description as you can to 911 operators because chances are the panhandler will leave your doorstep, but will continue to go door to door in the same neighborhood.

It is important to emphasize the need to take every precaution to avoid becoming a victim of any crime. Panhandling is a crime and those who panhandle through “crisis solicitation” could escalate their behavior to a more serious crime such as home invasion or burglary.

For more information visit

www.fortworthpd.com where you can find more tips on awareness and protecting yourself and your family from becoming a victim of crime. ♦

District 8 Crime Report

Thanks to Fort Worth’s outstanding police force and many dedicated Citizens On Patrol volunteers, District 8 saw a 10.6 percent drop in Part 1 crime last year. In fact, nearly all crime categories were down. Violent crime, which is always a concern in any neighborhood or community, was down significantly.

What’s more, crime in District 8 was down 29.7 percent over the last 5 years.

A special thanks to all of the men and women of the Fort Worth Police Department working in the East, Central and South divisions. ♦

Residents turnout for 4th annual town hall meeting

Residents were treated to a wealth of information about the community at the 4th Annual District 8 Town Hall Meeting on November 8.

Attendees participated in a host of workshops covering various topics such as promoting positive development and quality affordable accessible housing, working together to maintain clean communities, promoting safe neighborhoods, the Barnett Shale and smart growth initiatives involving planning and zoning.

Special guests included Mayor Mike Moncrief, Fort Worth ISD Superintendant Dr. Melody Johnson, Congressman Michael Burgess, City Manager Dale Fisseler and countless city staff.

Once again, the District 8 Advisory Board, comprised of neighborhood leaders from across the district, was very involved. The town hall meetings are a convenient way for District 8 residents to access city hall and



have their voices heard.

A special thanks to Dr. Jerome Price, Sr. and Carter Metropolitan CME Church who so graciously hosted this very successful event.

Supporting our local SafeHaven

Residents of SafeHaven of Tarrant County were treated to a Christmas Luncheon in December by Texas Rangers Pitcher Travis Metcalf and his wife. Kathleen Hicks along with the East Division Fort Worth Police Department presented books donated to the East Division. Neighborhood Police Districts 5 and 6, along with CAC and Citizens on Patrol donated all the books at the luncheon. Also, Officer Green's recognition by the Texas Rangers was a great surprise and honor. The mission of SafeHaven, which is based in District 8, is to end family violence through

safety, support, prevention and social change. Should you need assistance, SafeHaven's toll free 24-hour crisis hotline number is 877-701-SAFE (7233). ♦



District 8 pride alive and well in Riverside community

The development occurring in southeast Fort Worth has been characterized as a modern day renaissance. However, District 8 has long enjoyed dynamic neighborhoods. Riverside is one such community.

“Riverside actually crosses three council districts and boasts numerous community activists,” said long time resident and local historian Sara Walker.

One such individual, Curtis Edwards, is making a difference in Riverside as he continues to build quality homes. He describes Riverside as a quiet area with good people.

“I feel really good about coming back to the neighborhood and rebuilding on the street I was born on,” he said.

Mr. Edwards recalls when kids used to play on the street corners.

“Over a period of years, the quality of our neighborhood goes down, but it is up to the next generation to improve our area. To make a difference we need to make an improvement. With each generation we need to give back,” Mr. Edwards explained.

“The community may have experienced some ups and downs, but the constant has been that we—everyone who grew up here—always wanted to return the community to way it was when we were growing up and it’s very exciting to see everyone doing their part to insure it happens,” said Kelly Allen Gray, executive director for United Riverside Rebuilding Corporation. “I would say that is the absolute best definition

These two homes are a sampling of the new houses being built in the Riverside community.



of community revitalization.”

In recent years, Riverside has also benefited greatly from the United Riverside Rebuilding Corporation (URRC). Created in August of 2000 by the United Riverside Neighborhood Association, the URRC has garnered a great reputation for creating quality affordable homes.

By partnering with the city of Fort Worth Housing and Economic Development Department, URRC has assisted low to moderate income families with homeownership through the “Dream Home” program, acquiring existing homes,

rehabilitating and reselling them. URRC has also acquired vacant lots for future single-family construction projects.

The organization’s official slogan, “willing to go the extra mile,” shines through their long list of accomplishments. URRC has not only redeveloped Gid Hooper Park and created the Louella Bales Baker Park, but also built and sold 24 single family homes; rehabbed 15 homes owned and occupied by senior citizens, provided minor home repairs to 55 owner-occupied homes and purchased 50 vacant lots for new construction infill projects.

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	Development.....	817-392-7820
Construction services, engineering	Engineering.....	817-392-8306
Housing services, concerns, complaints	Housing.....	817-392-7540



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 8, 1000 Throckmorton St., Fort Worth, TX 76102. You can also submit comments or suggestions by e-mail at district8newsletter@fortworthgov.org.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Comments: _____



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