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Doing the work they said we could not do . . .



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Dear fellow District 8 resident,

Eleanor Roosevelt once asserted, “you must do the things you think you cannot do.” In Council District 8, we continue to work together to improve our community for the better!

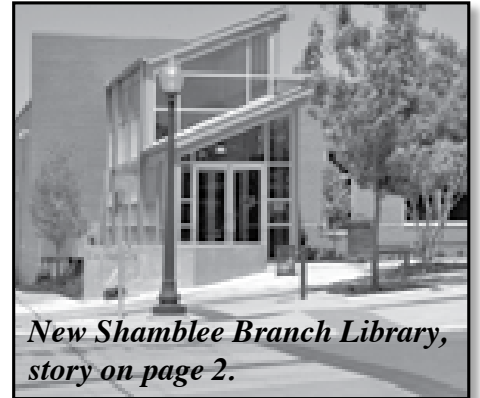
Indeed, I am delighted to report to you that the renaissance in our community continues. More than 700 residents braved the heat recently to attend the opening of the new Shamblee Library, the city’s largest branch library.

I was also pleased to be present for the demolition of the old Worth Apartments on Evans Avenue. For many years, the building stood as an eyesore and symbol of the decline along this once vibrant corridor. But with the help of our Housing and Code Compliance departments, the building came down, once again signaling a positive new chapter for our district.

The storefront across from Texas Wesleyan University on Rosedale is also being rehabilitated after decades of decline. Not only will the university benefit from the commercial development, the community will also get much needed retail in the area.

We recently convened the quarterly District 8 Advisory Board. Our new City Manager, Dale Fissler, addressed a standing room only crowd of community activists from across our district. The turnout demonstrated what we all know: District 8 residents care and are so committed to ensuring that we continue to see positive change.

We look forward to our annual District 8 Town Hall Meeting on Nov. 8 (location to be



New Shamblee Branch Library, story on page 2.

announced). If you have suggestions or questions about this important meeting, please contact us.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to honor long-time District 8 resident, Mrs. Hazel Harvey Peace, who recently passed away. An educator and activist, she was also a dear friend and mentor to me and countless others. Her legacy lives on in our hearts and in the community she so loved.

Onward and Upward
District 8,

Kathleen

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New Shamblee Branch Library is now open!

They came from all around to experience first hand the renaissance continued... An estimated 700 people came together on June 13 to enjoy music, art, literature and much more at the recent Ella Mae Gratts Shamblee Branch Library grand opening. The near triple digit temperature was shaded by everyone's anticipation and excitement.

The new branch, at 1062 Evans Ave., is named in tribute to the city's first African-American librarian, Ella Mae Gratts Shamblee. It spans now 12,590 square feet of literary paradise, three times larger than the old library, and is part of the Evans and Rosedale Business and Cultural District Revitalization Project. It boasts special collections, state of the art technology not to mention exceptional public art components.

History is indeed alive in the central city! The 76-year-old Tommy Tucker Building has been incorporated into the new library. And it has already begun to serve its purpose by providing a place for community meetings and events.

The building originally housed Our Mother of Mercy School, which was attended by dozens of renowned Fort Worth residents. Vacant since 1978, the Tommy Tucker Building was purchased by the city of Fort Worth in 2001. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in August 2006. The poignant history of the building and the community is told in an extensive photography display.

Also included in the festivities was the celebration of Our Mother of Mercy School's campus



expansion and the ongoing progress of the Lenora Rolla Heritage Center and Museum. Certainly a great time was had by

all. We must continue to share the responsibility to see this renaissance flourish for a long time to come! ♦

Features of the Shamblee Branch Library

- 12,590 square feet
- 26 public computers
- Free wireless Internet access
- Self-service check-out
- Community meeting room (seats 100) with catering kitchen
- Art gallery
- More than 8,000 new books, CDs, DVDs and audio books
- African-American Heritage Collection
- Spanish-language Collection
- Coretta Scott King Award Book Collection
- Stained glass window by local artist Leticia Huckaby called *35 City Blocks* featuring community icons
- Floor mosaic, *Winding River of Knowledge*, also by Huckaby
- Reading garden
- *Living Legacy* digital display focusing on the area's history
- Historic photograph display featuring Evans-Rosedale community, Our Mother of Mercy and Tommy Tucker (created by local artist Jenny Conn)

City demolishes two hazardous buildings

After several years of battling non-responsive property owners, bankrupt corporations and property fires, the city's Code Compliance Department finally got the go-ahead from the state to demolish two hazardous east side commercial buildings.

The structures, at 2368 and 1309 Evans Ave., were once an apartment building and commercial retail outlet, respectively, but years of abandonment and disrepair had taken their toll on the structures.

"The Council and I were glad to finally see this hazardous eyesore come down," said Mayor Pro Tem Kathleen Hicks. "The demolition of these old apartments will give us a clean slate that should not only beautify this area, but also continue to spur development for the Evans Ave. corridor."

Code Compliance brought 2368



Evans Ave. before the Fort Worth Building Standards Commission in October 2003. An order to repair or demolish the building was issued, but nearly two years of legal wrangling passed before the structure burned in September 2005, damaging the second story and causing sections of the roof to collapse.

A Code Compliance investigator later found that all the members of

the corporation that owned the property had passed away and the company no longer existed. In September of 2006, Tarrant County foreclosed on the property and it was turned over to the city.

The city decided to demolish the structure due to the extensive fire damage, collapse hazard and other conditions that made it dangerous to enter.

1309 Evans Ave. also was owned by a company that had dissolved and abandoned it. Tarrant County foreclosed on the property in June 2007 and handed it to the city. Code staff found that the foundation and walls were extensively rotted and the roof was dilapidated, and determined that the cost to rebuild this structure wasn't feasible.

The Texas Department of Health gave approval May 6 to take down the buildings. ♦

Lots of fun and fellowship was what everyone experienced during this year's West Meadowbrook's Annual Picnic. There's nothing better than taking time to visit with neighbors and, of course, pie throwing, thanks Gigi Goesling. Wanda Conlin and Lt. Weenig were some of the few to enjoy a nice pie in the face.



Another successful Juneteenth Parade along Evans Avenue!

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 BSEEC is a central point of information for everything related to the Barnett Shale and gas exploration. 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.

The shovels keep turning! Representatives from the United Communities Centers celebrate the groundbreaking of their Polytechnic Center.



◀ *Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce President Dee Jennings, Councilwoman Kathleen Hicks and Sanmi E. Akinmulero of the DFW African Chamber of Commerce welcoming an African delegation to Fort Worth.*



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.

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.

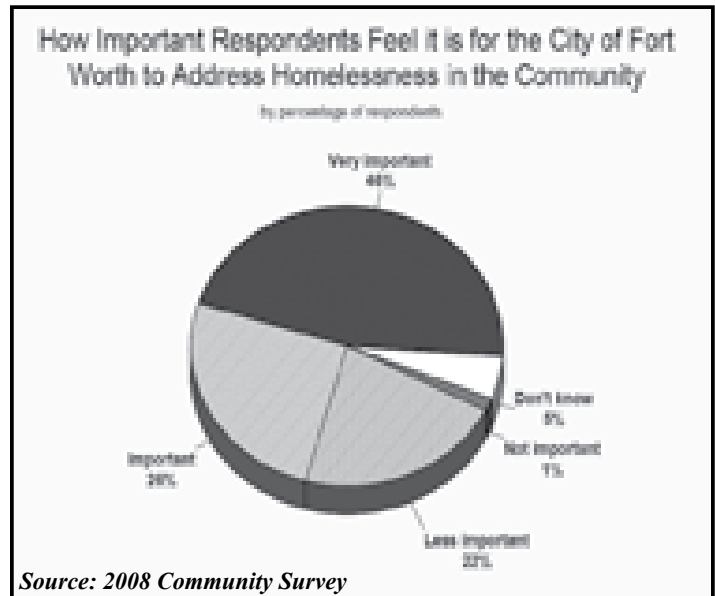
After receiving overwhelming support from the public and various homelessness service providers, the plan was unanimously adopted by the City Council on June 17.

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 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 17th 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. ♦

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



Rendering of public art mural to be installed on facade of new fire station on Evans Street in District 8.

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.

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. ♦



Councilmember Hicks recently visited the ROOTS Academy at East Saint Paul Church in Highland Hills. The students also recently sat in on a City Council meeting. ♦

City Council bans roadside sale of animals

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. 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.

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.....	817-392-7546



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 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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