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Greetings from Mayor Pro-Tem Kathleen Hicks

District 8, we are all in this together . . .



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When I decided to run for council in the spring of 2005, one of my biggest priorities was to bring residents of the district together, regardless of their neighborhood, race, gender, etc. That dream seemed closer to reality one unusually warm day this past December when a standing room only crowd gathered to break ground on a new housing development in the near southeast part of the district.

Terrell Heights represents the first new large-scale housing development on the southside in many, many years. The project is spearheaded by former Mayor Kenneth Barr, and developers Ron Hill and Tom Struhs. Legendary businesswoman J.J. Grayson also is involved in the project. The quality affordable housing will replace long-vacant

lots, which have stunted growth.

The newly approved Terrell Heights Historic District ensures that the new development complements the existing unique housing. Moreover, Terrell Heights is an important component with all the other development in the area, signaling a resurgence of the community.

And you know, I don't just represent the southside. I live on the southside of town, and I am proud of it!

I grew up in the community, having gone to school at Our Mother of Mercy, which also is being rebuilt right around the corner. My mother's first law practice was along the once vibrant Evans corridor.

This year, along Evans, the largest library outside of downtown will soon open. A new public health

center, fire station and police substation also are slated — representing millions of dollars of city investment. The existing Evans Plaza also is getting a facelift with new and enhanced seating and landscaping.

The investment is great and long overdue, but I was especially gratified to see so many District 8 neighbors present at the recent Terrell Heights groundbreaking. From Riverside to Rolling Hills, from Meadowbrook to Morningside, from Highland Hills to Hillside, the community demonstrated that we are all in this together — rebuilding our community one house, one block, one development and one neighborhood at a time.

Until next time,

Kathleen

Mentoring in District 8

Seven years ago, Cedric Hunt listened carefully as a representative from the Big Brothers and Sisters program gave a presentation to his Air Force Reserve unit. Cedric was hooked. He couldn't wait to become a mentor to a local young man.

After discussing this opportunity with his wife and son, Cedric made the commitment to become a Big Brother.

After contacting the Big Brothers and Sisters staff, he was introduced to Malcolm Cairo, who would become his mentee. At the time, Malcolm was a ninth-grader at O.D. Wyatt High School.

Cedric agreed to mentor Malcolm through his high school graduation. The two really hit it off from the start, and they've grown to become very good friends.

Malcolm will be the first to say he is more confident and more open, thanks to Cedric. He really enjoys the fact that he can talk to Cedric about anything. His mother, Kashanda Lane, agrees.

"There are things that he is just not going to talk to his mother about, but he will with Cedric," Kashanda said. "It's very important in a boy's life to have the influence of a mature man when there is not a dad around."

Today, Malcolm spends his time studying, playing basketball and running track — that is, when he's not at the arcade or a movie with Cedric.

Cedric and Malcolm are both having a wonderful time in the Big



Brother program, and they look forward to many more experiences ahead. Malcolm wants to explore studying architecture, and Cedric wants them to catch a Dallas Mavericks game.

But Malcolm isn't the only one benefiting from this relationship. "It's very fulfilling to be involved in Malcolm's life, and it's not that difficult," Cedric said. "It only takes the will to make a difference." He encourages other

men thinking of becoming a Big Brother to "just go for it." There are hundreds of Fort Worth children waiting for a Big Brother or a Big Sister. Many of these children live in District 8. If you would like to learn more about becoming a Big Brother or Big Sister, contact Roderick Miles at 1-888-887-2447.

**Until next time –
*Onward and Upward,
District 8!* ♦**

Improve local parks

Residents can get directly involved in improving parks through city grants that match private investments from residents or businesses.

The Neighborhood Development Program presents a unique opportunity to leverage private resources with city funds for park improvements. The goal of this program is to create a sense of ownership through the construction or replacement of park facilities.

The program is funded by gas well royalties received from city-owned gas leases. Each year, a total of \$100,000 is available. Residents or groups interested in learning more about the Neighborhood Park Development Program may call 817-871-5700.



Fort Worth launches Women's Health Initiative

Every January, millions of Americans start the new year with promises to make a change. More often than not, these promises include improving their health, wellness and happiness.

A new Fort Worth Public Health Department program called the Women's Health Initiative is a resource for local women looking to improve their health and make good on those new year's resolutions.

The initiative began as a response to the high number of babies dying in Fort Worth before reaching their first birthday. These deaths, known as infant mortality, represent much more than an individual medical problem. Rather, infant mortality is a true measure of the overall health and wellness of a community.

Unfortunately, Fort Worth — especially southeast Fort Worth — continues to experience higher infant mortality rates than other major cities in Texas and the nation. In fact, some communities in Fort Worth have infant mortality rates that rival some developing countries. And infant mortality rates are much higher among African-Americans than any other ethnic group.

Prior infant mortality research suggests that improving the health of women prior to pregnancy holds the most promise in improving birth outcomes, including infant mortality. Unfortunately, a recent door-to-door women's health assessment of more than 400 women conducted by the Public Health Department's Outreach Division revealed that not all women

in our community are in good health.

The good news is that with education, resources, coordination, commitment and leadership, women can improve their health, and many infant deaths might be prevented.

The Fort Worth City Council and the staff at the Fort Worth Public Health Department understand the importance of addressing and ultimately reducing infant mortality rates. Now, thanks to the new Women's Health Initiative, local women no longer have an excuse for falling short of their new year's resolutions.

For more information about the activities planned by the Women's Health Initiative or women's health education topics or resources, contact Women's Health Initiative Coordinator Amy Raines at 817-871-7125. ♦

New distribution center means more jobs in District 8

Fort Worth-based Rob Riner Cos. recently partnered with the Amon G. Carter Foundation to develop approximately 800 acres known as Carter Distribution Center located in District 8, east of Interstate 35W and south of Interstate 20.

The new distribution center will be developed in two phases, adding millions of square feet of development in District 8.

Just adjacent to the distribution center is the already established Carter Industrial Park, a 950-acre master planned industrial development with more than 32 corporate residents. The types of businesses at the park vary from food and beverage processing, to distribution, to light manufacturing and pharmaceutical research and development.

Carter Park residents employ approximately 8,000 people and contribute nearly \$1 billion to the local economy through tax revenue, payroll and sales. ♦



Infill project bringing new life to Terrell Heights

The prolific inventor Henry Ford once said, “Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success.”

This is a simple yet powerful concept. And it’s a concept being put to good use through a revolutionary development project in historic Terrell Heights.

This Central City neighborhood is located just east of Interstate 35 and north of Rosedale Street. During the past 20 years, Terrell Heights has struggled greatly as many homes have been abandoned and left in disrepair. Other homes have been demolished after becoming a safety hazard or magnet for crime.

But now, thanks to a strong public and private partnership, new, period-style homes are being built to fill in the vacant lots and replace old abandoned properties. The new homes will range in price from \$85,000 to \$110,000.

This remarkable project would not be possible without strong



commitments from numerous partners. The collaboration includes the City of Fort Worth, community leaders, developer Tom Struhs, former Mayor Kenneth Barr of KT Land, Ron Hill of Neighborhood Homes and Realtors J.J. Grayson and Sherley Spears.

The new Terrell Heights development greatly complements the economic development already under way at Evans and Rosedale streets, just to the south.



This corridor will feature a brand new library, a fire station, a new public health center and exclusive public art that will tell the story of those who made this community a historical Fort Worth treasure.

Terrell Heights and the Evans and Rosedale Corridor are just part of the great rebirth of southeast Fort Worth. It’s truly history in the making! But there’s even more to come. Stay tuned.

Onward and upward, District 8! ♦

Residents asked to help light up Fort Worth

The City of Fort Worth has launched a re-lamping program to light up Fort Worth. Driving on dark streets can be dangerous. That’s why city leaders are asking for citizens’ help by reporting outages.

Fort Worth has more than 60,000 street lights that must be maintained. Malfunctions include burned out lamps, lights working

intermittently, lights burning during daylight hours or knocked down poles. Last year, crews replaced 127 poles, performed 91 circuit repairs and replaced 4,684 lamps.

“We need neighborhoods to tell us when lights are out or malfunctioning,” said Robert Goode, Transportation and Public Works director. “The city has 37 staff to perform all maintenance on

our street-light inventory. If we are to keep the lights burning, we need residents, police and people driving the streets to report outages.”

Residents are asked to report street light outages and malfunctions by calling 817-392-8100 or online at www.fortworthgov.org.

Once an outage is reported, repairs can take three to 14 days. ♦

Voters to consider bond package for streets in May

Periodically, the Fort Worth City Council presents bond packages to voters to keep pace with the city's continued infrastructure needs. The Fort Worth City Council recently formulated a bond program to present to voters this spring. Election Day is May 10.



The bond would not cover routine street maintenance, which is included annually in the city's operating budget (approximately \$15 million in this year's budget). Normal street maintenance includes anything from filling pot holes to repaving an entire street.

The 2008 bond is valued at \$150 million. If approved by voters, it will fund street improvements across the city over the next four years.

There are more than \$1 billion worth of existing street needs for some 74 arterial roads and 479 lane-miles of neighborhood streets in Fort Worth. The bond program proposes to begin chipping away at these needed improvements by allocating funds for reconstructing high-priority streets and arterials, replacing traffic signals and improving intersections and bridges.

However, full reconstruction is needed when streets deteriorate to a point where maintenance is no longer cost effective. Working with council members and citizens, city staff used a number of criteria to assess which streets require the most urgent attention.

District 8 will receive the most funds for neighborhood streets, as it has the most need.

Arterial streets are ranked according to safety, congestion, citizen feedback, mobility and others. Neighborhood street

consideration takes into account safety, citizen feedback and evaluation of drainage concerns.

The proposed 2008 bond package calls for:

- \$81 million for arterial streets
- \$33 million for neighborhood streets
- \$22.2 million for bridges
- \$5 million for traffic signals
- \$3.3 million for transportation grant matches
- \$3 million for public art
- \$2.5 million for intersection improvements

If approved in May, the 2008 bond package will complement the \$150 million critical capital needs package that was approved by council last year.

To find out about specific improvements included in the 2008 proposed bond program, visit the Fort Worth Web site at www.fortworthgov.org, or call 817-392-7621 for English or 817-392-8704 for Spanish. ♦

Need some trees?

Does your neighborhood evoke a sense of place and charm? Do tree-lined streets give you a feeling of home?

Trees enrich our lives by adding beauty and color, and they perform vital functions such as filtering pollution from the air. We enjoy their shade and cooling effects, and trees even help us save energy. They soften the harsh lines of buildings, provide privacy screens and contribute to the general character of a home.

Trees can increase the selling value of properties; and, most of all, planting a tree today will leave a legacy for decades to come.

Your neighborhood can transform

from a treeless, hot street into a shady, tree-lined haven. The city of Fort Worth offers a free program to city neighborhoods to create beautiful, beneficial tree-lined streets. The Neighborhood Tree Planting Program is available to make such a transformation possible.

So, how does one get involved? It's easy. Simply call Forestry at 817-871-5729 to get started.

A representative from the neighborhood must volunteer to become the neighborhood project coordinator and act as a liaison between your community and the forester.

Up to 75 addresses per

neighborhood, per season are eligible to receive two free 5-gallon street trees. The trees are provided by the City of Fort Worth Forestry Division and must be planted in the parkway or city right of way (this is often the area between the sidewalk and the curb). Participants agree to plant the trees and water them for up to two years or until the trees are established.

A tree-lined street is in your future, so what are you waiting for? Call Forestry at 817-871-5729, or visit the Web site at: www.fortworthgov.org/pacs/fwpacsd/forestry/index.htm to learn more about the free street tree program. ♦

Council strengthens dangerous dog ordinance

The Fort Worth City Council unanimously passed new rules that now cover unprovoked attacks on animals as well as humans by unrestrained dogs.

The new dangerous dog ordinance allows for more aggressive enforcement of cases where a pet being walked on a leash is attacked by a free-roaming dog. Animal Care and Control officials hope the new ordinance will emphasize the need for pet owners to be responsible and make sure their dogs are restrained.

According to the new ordinance, a seizure warrant now will be issued after an aggressive dog report is filed with the Municipal Court. After Animal Care and Control seizes the dog, it will be impounded at the animal shelter until the court determines whether it is deemed dangerous.

Once a dog has been declared dangerous, the owner of the animal must comply with certain requirements within 15 days. The



dog will remain in Animal Care and Control's custody until compliance is verified or while any appeal processes are pursued by the owner. If an appeal is unsuccessful, the owner will pay all applicable sheltering fees for this time period.

For more information, call 817-392-3737 or visit www.fortworthgov.org/publichealth. ♦

City bans tethering, chaining dogs

The City Council approved an ordinance banning use of chains, ropes, tethers, leashes, cables or other devices to attach an unattended dog to a stationary object or trolley system commonly known as dog tethering.

A dog still must be confined within a secure enclosure at all times.

The ban, which comes in light of evidence that shows tethering may increase aggressive behavior in animals, strengthens rules limiting the practice that were passed by the state legislature in 2007.

Under the new ordinance, the tethering of dogs still will be allowed under limited circumstances when the owner is present, such as at lawful animal events or city dog parks and during veterinary treatment, grooming, training or law enforcement activity.

Those who violate the new ordinance could face a fine as high as \$2,000. For more information or to report a violation, call the Animal Care and Control Division at 817-392-3737. ♦

Community leaders cut the ribbon on the Trinity Trails newest trailhead located at Fourth Street and Sylvania Avenue in District 8. ♦



▲ From left to right: Urbin McKeever, chairman of Streams and Valleys; Betsy Price, Tarrant County tax assessor and Streams and Valleys board member; Erma Johnson-Hadley, Tarrant County Community College and Streams and Valleys board member; Congresswoman Kay Granger; Vic Henderson, president of the Tarrant Regional Water District Board; Fort Worth Councilmember Kathleen Hicks; and Artist Cedric Huckaby.

◀ Mrs. Louise Lesile, Riverside Community Leader

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



FROM _____



PLACE
STAMP
HERE



**CITY OF FORT WORTH
 MAYOR AND COUNCIL
 MAYOR PRO-TEM/COUNCILMEMBER DISTRICT 8
 KATHLEEN HICKS
 1000 THROCKMORTON ST
 FORT WORTH TX 76102-6311**





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City of Fort Worth
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We want to hear from you!

Please use this comment card to mail me your feedback about pressing issues in our District neighborhoods. You can remain anonymous if you choose. **You also can submit comments via e-mail at district8newsletter@fortworthgov.org.**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Comments: _____
