



COMMUNITY UPDATE TOWN OF LITTLE ELM

FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2010

IN MEMORIAM

Councilwoman Brenda Button Mills passed away after a lengthy illness on Monday, February 15th. Brenda served the Little Elm community and its schools for many years. She worked for the Town of Little Elm as Town Administrator/Town Secretary from October of 1980 until November of 1989. She then worked for Little Elm ISD from December of 1989 until July of 2007. Her duties at LEISD began as the district's book keeper and payroll clerk, and later she served as the secretary to the principal at Little Elm Elementary, ultimately King Early Learning Academy. Brenda was first elected to public office in 1999. She served on Town Council from 1999 through 2003 and again from 2005 until her passing on February 15, 2010. Our hearts and prayers go out to her friends and family.

WE NEED YOUR INPUT, PLEASE!

ONLY 135 of 7,800+ households have responded to our annual citizen's assessment of our performance. The survey instrument is readily available online at www.littleelm.org/2010survey. The survey is short and shouldn't take more than 5 minutes of your time. **Your input is vital to assessing how well the services provided by the Town are meeting your expectations.** If you do not have access to the internet, please call Laura at 214-975-0406 and she will gladly put a paper copy in the mail to you. **The survey will be open until March 20th.**

SPRING CLEAN & GREEN EVENT

The Town of Little Elm's semi-annual **Clean & Green Event will take place on Saturday April 17th from 8:00am until 1:00pm.** The event location is Brenda Lane @ Eldorado Parkway, just west of the Preston on the Lakes intersection. Items accepted for this event are:

- Household Hazardous Waste (paint, chemicals, cleaners, and used motor oil and batteries)
- E*waste (computer components, electronic devices, old television sets)
- Document shredding (shredding of any sensitive information)
- Used tires
- Bulk metal items
- Bulk items in general

We ask that you presort as much as possible; this will help to keep traffic moving, and allow our staff to work as efficiently as possible. There is NO CHARGE for this event, but it is limited to Little Elm residents – proof of residency in the form of a current water bill and Texas Drivers License is required.

For more information please call Sandy at: 972-377-5556, email skile@littleelm.org or visit our website at www.littleelm.org.

FATHER/ DAUGHTER DANCE - RESCHEDULED!

The Little Elm Chamber of Commerce has rescheduled the Father/Daughter Dance to **March 6th at Lakeside Jr. High School from 6:30pm until 8:30pm.** You may purchase tickets at all LEISD Campuses, Capitol One Bank, and Point Bank. Admission is \$5.00 per person and \$5.00 for photos. For more information please call Chamber Executive, Ed Yeatman, at 972-292-3777.

ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

The LE Festival Association, in conjunction with the LE Library, will again host the annual Easter Egg Hunt on **Saturday, March 27th at the soccer fields in LE Park beginning sharply at 9:30am.** Age groups invited are 0-4, 5-7, and 8-12 year olds. Free hot dogs/drinks and other entertainment are scheduled. Call the library for further information 214-975-0430.

IF YOU OWN A RENTAL HOME OR RENT A HOME, PLEASE READ

The Town of Little Elm desires to see all its residents provided with safe, affordable housing regardless of whether they own their home or rent it. The Town also desires to maintain safe and attractive neighborhoods for the benefit of all its citizens.

In order to achieve these goals the Town has adopted a new registration and permitting process for all residential properties that are NOT owner occupied. Beginning April 1st every owner of a residential rental property in the Town of Little Elm must acquire a rental permit for each property they own. Without this rental permit the property cannot be legally occupied. Permits will be good for one year from the date of issue.

As a condition of receiving the permit the property owner must agree to maintain the property to a certain standard. If that standard is not met the owner will run the risk of losing the rental permit and the ability to rent the property.

The current process of requiring safety inspections for all rental units every time there is a change of tenant will be replaced by this permitting process and an effort to train tenants to know what the standards are and what to look for. Tenants will be provided a Town contact to report violations if the property owner fails to be responsive in correcting outstanding issues.

The Town is in the process of creating a mailing list of all owners of single family structures in Little Elm that are not owner occupied. Information letters should go out the first of

March with a requirement that units are registered by the first of April.

If you have questions about the new rental permit process please contact John Taylor, Community Development Director, at taylor@littleelm.org or 214-975-0455.

Capital Improvement Projects Update

Utilities

Eldorado Water and Wastewater Project: The general contractor continues installation and relocation of water and sewer lines along Eldorado Parkway. The work is approximately 40% complete and expected to be 100% complete in June 2010.

FM 423 Water Line / Cottonwood Creek Sewer Trunk: Construction for this project began in December 2009. The general contractor continues installation and relocation of water and sewer lines along FM 423. The project is approximately 30% complete and is scheduled for completion in August 2010.

Waste Water Treatment Plant Expansion and Odor Control Project: The project is under construction and is approximately 40% complete and scheduled for completion in November 2010.

East Eldorado Wastewater Improvement Project: This project will correct capacity concerns and relocate utilities that conflict with Eldorado Parkway widening. The construction began in January and is about 10% complete. This project is scheduled to be complete in September 2010.

Cottonwood Ball Park Irrigation Well: Construction is underway with completion expected in April 2010.

Mansell Pump Station Improvements / Emergency Power: The project is now approximately 30% complete. It is expected that construction will be complete in the second quarter of 2010.

Backup Generator Project: The design consultant is completing the construction plans for the installation of an emergency backup generator for the wastewater treatment plant and for the Town Hall / Public Safety Center sites. Construction start date has not been determined.

Streets

King Road (East) Reconstruction: The project is under construction and is approximately 95% complete. The project is scheduled for completion in March 2010.

Lobo Lane Paving & Drainage Project: The design for the project is currently 85% complete. An extension of Lobo Lane through Little Elm Park to Main Street has been added to the project scope, pending Corps of Engineers approval. It is expected that this project will bid out in late May 2010.

Witt-Woodlake Connector: The plans are complete and the project is currently out for bid. Construction is expected to commence in March 2010.

Witt Road Bridge: The design consultant has been selected and the design process will commence in February 2010 with construction scheduled to start next winter.

Main Street (West) Paving and Drainage Phase I: The Town awarded the bid for this project and it is expected that construction will commence in March 2010.

Main Street (East) & Lakeshore Realignment Phase II: The design consultant is preceding with 60% construction documents. No date for construction has been set.

Eldorado Parkway Lighting: Design is complete and the work will bid with the TxDOT widening of Eldorado Parkway.

Eldorado Parkway Streetscape and Gateway Improvements: The design consultant continues development of the 30% construction documents. Phase I should go to construction next fall.

King Road West: The design consultant is working on 30% construction documents. Staff will be meeting with the City of Frisco to coordinate plans for the project that borders the two municipalities. No construction date has been set.

Buildings

Public Safety Facility & Animal Control: The schematic design was presented to the Town Council at the February 9th work session. The project is in the design development phase. Council selected an alternate site at the wastewater treatment plant for the animal shelter based on comments received at a public hearing. Early indications are of a construction start late fall.

Community / Recreation Center & Senior Center: Town Staff is working with the design consultant on site plans as a component of completing the schematic design. The schematic design will be completed in March 2010. Early indications are of a construction start next winter.

Texas Department of Transportation Projects:

Eldorado Parkway Through Little Elm: The design plans are 100% complete; TxDOT has acquired the required right-of-ways (ROW). The project will be bid out in Summer 2010 with construction commencing in the Fall 2010.

FM 423 (from Little Elm Parkway southward to just north of The Colony): Austin Bridge & Road won the bid for this project (\$29.1 Million), The construction is scheduled to start in March 2010 and complete 26 months later in May of 2012.

FM 423 (from Little Elm Parkway northward to US 380): The engineer design plans are at 100% complete and project is scheduled to go to construction after the right of way acquisition and utility relocations this year.

For additional information about the Town of Little Elm's Capital Construction Projects and schedules please visit our web page at www.littleelm.org

PARKS & RECREATION NEWS

The Lighthouse Grill at Little Elm Park Beach will be open during Spring Break. March 13th – 21st, 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. with a full menu each day. Enjoy a free snow cone

anytime between 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. during these dates. One snow cone per person, per day.

YOUTH ATHLETICS

Spring Break Tennis Camp – The Parks and Recreation Department will be offering a Spring Break Tennis Camp from March 15 – 19. Tennis Pro, Josh Harris will be instructing the camp and it will be held at Little Elm High School tennis courts. For registration and additional information visit www.littleelfun.org or contact Scott Dunn at 972-731-3294.

The Town of Little Elm will be offering **Youth Track** through the LE Lightning Track Club. Registration accepted through April 19 for boys & girls ages 5 – 18 years old. Early registration \$10 off through March 20th. \$50 Conditioning (no competition); \$110 TAAF (competition). Register online at www.lelightningsports.com. For additional information contact Nicole Johnson at 469-450-6484 or lelightning@yahoo.com or Scott Dunn at 972-731-3294 or sdunn@littleelm.org.

SoccerTots is taking registration for Spring classes. SoccerTots is a child development program for kids ages 18 months to 6 years old. It uses a variety of fun games to delight and engage kids in physical activity. Classes are professional designed to develop motor skills, promote physical fitness, and create self-confidence. SoccerTots classes will be held on Friday mornings and early afternoons at the Little Elm Community Center. Registration required. Visit www.soccertotsdallas.com or contact Roberto Libano at 469-834-8450.

ADULT ATHLETICS

Adult and Youth Tennis Lessons – The Parks and Recreation Department is offering tennis in a structured, organized, yet fun environment. Instructions are provided by Tennis Pro, Josh Harris and will be held at Little Elm High School tennis courts. Lesson Rates: Private - \$50 per hour (1 person), Semi-Private - \$60 per hour (2 people), Group - \$70 per hour (3-6 people). For registration and additional information visit www.littleelfun.org or contact Scott Dunn at 972-731-3294.

Adult Tennis League registration starts February 8 – March 12. League begins the week of March 22. We will be offering men's and women's singles (both competitive and recreational), doubles, and mixed doubles. Cost is \$20 per player. 8 matches guaranteed. Games will be played at Little Elm High School tennis courts. For more information visit www.littleelfun.org or contact Scott Dunn at 972-731-3294.

The Parks and Recreation Department is excited to offer **Adult 8 v 8 Flag Football League**. Registration starts February 8 – March 19. League begins week of March 29. Our competitive division will play on Tuesday's and the recreational division will play on Thursday's. Cost is \$375 per team. Games will be played at Marion Field. For more information visit www.littleelfun.org or contact Scott Dunn at 972-731-3294.

LITTLE ELM ADULT SENIOR PROGRAMS

Come join our adult seniors (age 50 or older) for fun times! Some of our events include game days, monthly luncheons, arts & crafts, and Senior Shindig. More fun and exciting events are soon to come.

Join us for **Ice Cream & Wii Games** on March 15th at 2:00 p.m., at the Little Elm Community Center.

Meet & Eat! Join us for lunch...everyone pays their own way, just come and enjoy the company and good food. March 8th at 12:00 p.m., at Waters Edge Café, 800 W. Eldorado Parkway, Little Elm and March 19th at 12:00 p.m., at Roma's Italian Restaurant, 1725 E. Eldorado Parkway, Little Elm. RSVP to Missy Meador at 972-731-3296 if you would like to join us for one or both of these lunches.

Join us for **Craft Day**, the third Tuesday of every month, 10:00 a.m., at the Little Elm Community Center. RSVP is required, so I can plan for enough supplies.

Let's get down and boogie at the **Senior Shindig**, the third Friday of every month, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., located at the Little Elm Community Center. Bring a snack to share.

For additional information check our website at www.ci.little-elm.tx.us/seniors or contact Missy Meador at 972-731-3296. To receive updates on events, subscribe at www.ci.little-elm.tx.us/list.aspx. We look forward to seeing you!

LOCAL ELECTIONS

Filing deadlines for positions on the Town Council and School District Board is March 8th. Early voting for all local elections will be April 26th through May 4th with Election Day being Saturday May 8th. More details will be available in the April newsletter.

Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate Program

Congress appropriated \$300 million nationwide to support state rebate programs for residential ENERGY STAR appliance products. The Texas Energy Conservation Office (SECO) estimated allocation is **\$23,341,000**.

Program Objectives includes:

- Save energy by encouraging appliance replacement through consumer rebates
- Make rebates available to consumers
- Enhance existing rebate programs by leveraging ENERGY STAR national partner relationships and local program infrastructure

SECO will allocate Texas \$23 million for a mail-in rebate program for consumers who purchase certain energy efficient household appliances. You can qualify for rebates for up to two appliances from the approved rebate appliance list.

The mail-in rebates will apply to eligible appliances purchased between April 16 and April 25, 2010. **NOTE - the rebate program will not be retroactive. It will only apply to purchases made once the program officially begins in April 2010.**

Consumers will have an opportunity to reserve an appliance rebate by calling a toll-free number or registering online approximately two weeks prior to April 16, 2010. After the reserved mail-in rebates are awarded, any remaining funds will be rebated to consumers on a first-come, first-served basis.

Get the latest updates. [Sign up for Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate e-mails](#). For additional information go to <http://www.seco.cpa.state.tx.us/arra/rebate/index.php>

CAPITAL PROJECTS TRACKING NOW IN REAL TIME

The Town is rolling out a new application on the Town website to allow citizens to view the progress of all capital projects underway in the Town. The **CIP Connection** will provide an unparalleled level of transparency. Everyone with internet access can view each project in detail –budget, expenditures, construction schedule, current activity, and even current construction photos. Residents will find information on all the current projects funded by the 2009 Capital Bond and the 2009 Utility Bond issue. This includes the Community/Recreation Center, Senior Center, Police and Fire Public Safety Facility, street projects, and utility projects. We encourage you to visit the Town website and click on the **CIP Connection** at www.littleelm.tx.us. Explore what is currently being built for the future of Little Elm.

ANNUAL WATER PIPING “BURN”

The Town’s wholesale water supplier, the North Texas Municipal Water District, will be switching the disinfectant used in our drinking water for a period of 30 days. This will begin February 19th. This change in disinfectant type is performed annually as routine maintenance to the overall water distribution system. This maintenance does not affect water quality. People who are sensitive to taste and odor changes in drinking water might notice a change during this period. This palatability change does not alter the quality of the drinking water. For more information about the annual disinfectant maintenance of any other water quality question, please contact our Public Works Department at publicworks@littleelm.org or by calling 214-975-0471.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BRINGING “THE ARTS” TO LITTLE ELM?

In a community of 24,000 there has to be many talented artists within our midst! We are reaching out to everyone with an artistic talent who would like to share with our community. This would include painters, sculpturers, soloists, choral singers, instrumentalists (solo, orchestral or band), dance, drama or any other arts. Let’s get together and talk about ways to share our talents with our friends and neighbors in Little Elm. You are invited to a general meeting on **Thursday, March 18th at 7pm at Town Hall**. Please contact Town Manager Ivan Langford at 214-975-0405 or ilangford@littleelm.org if you have any questions.

PEDESTRIAN TUNNEL PROJECT CANCELLED

During the concept meetings for the Little Elm Town Center, an idea was introduced that would have incorporated a tunnel crossing underneath Eldorado Parkway. The idea was that this "Pedestrian Gateway" would allow easier and safer access between the northern and southern portions of the Town Center, once it was completed. At the Town's request, Town Staff and outside consultants began incorporating this new and exciting element into the overall design of Eldorado Parkway. Costs were estimated and engineering proceeded.

Unfortunately, what started out as a great idea, turned out to be a potentially bad investment on the part of the Town. Recently, Town Staff and the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) began meeting with the potential developers of the Town Center project. During those discussions, and after serious consideration, each and every developer independently advised the Town that the tunnel would most likely do harm to the project, and at best, would add no value.

Meanwhile, the Town learned that the original costs estimates for inclusion of the tunnel in the widening of Eldorado Parkway were far below, nearly half, what they should have been due to new requirements provided by TxDOT. Based on all of this, the EDC recommended that the tunnel be removed from the Eldorado expansion project. After hearing the recommendations from developers, the EDC and Town Staff, the Town Council voted unanimously in agreement to remove the tunnel from the project.

Ground Breaking for Main Street Reconstruction

The Town will host a community meeting to present the plans for the **Main Street Reconstruction Project, Phase 1**. Main Street between Clark Street and East Park Drive will be reconstructed as a 31' wide concrete street with underground drainage, street lighting, sidewalks, and landscape features. The meeting will be held at Town Hall in the Council Chambers on Thursday, **March 11, 2010 at 6:30 PM**. Please come and join us for the exciting kick off of the newest Town project!

A ground breaking ceremony will also be held on March 31st, 2010 at 2:00 PM on Main and Button. Come celebrate with our elected officials and Town Staff!

Improve Your Job Searching Skills

Need to improve your job searching skills? Little Elm Library is hosting the North Texas Regional Library System job search skills training **Monday, March 22nd**. The morning session starts at 10:00am with “resumes, cover letters, and interview tips”. The afternoon session of “online job searching skills” will be presented at 1:30pm. Registration is required so call 214-975-0430.