



A Note from City Manager *Ron Whitehead*

The Restaurant Business

Nobody has a stronger restaurant community than Addison! Over 70 of our 170+ restaurants have been here for over 10 years. Remington's is the first of the 30 year restaurants we are celebrating. We have more to recognize throughout the year. It is a tough business right now, but we are up to the challenge, because we have been here before. We are working on new programs and advertising to support the restaurant business specifically. I hope all of you will come out to Taste Addison on May 8-10. Over 60 of our restaurants will be featured at the event. It is an important way for us to support and highlight the industry. We have some excellent operators, but they can always use your help. Invite your friends to dinner in Addison and see if you can get them to pay!

Triple AE

This Sunday through Tuesday we are hosting the American Association of Airport Executives General Aviation Meeting at the Crowne Plaza. Addison Airport is the host airport for the event that will bring over 100 people to town. Last week we hosted the North Texas Jazz Festival in Addison that was responsible for 600 room nights at this same hotel. The Triple AE Meeting is a great opportunity to show off Addison Airport to other people that operate general aviation airports. Our airport is one of the few GA airports in the country that operates without a subsidy from tax dollars. We have a great story to tell and we will get to tell it next week. Our visitor services employees, Bob Phillips and Diana George work with the hotels and groups like this every week. They would really love to help you bring a group to town to stay in one of our hotels. Everyone can be an ambassador for Addison by encouraging their friends and business associates to stay in Addison when they can. Ok, this week we are having Triple AE here, but you can help us with next week and the week after and June of 2010 and to infinity!

Topping Out

Yesterday the United Dominion Development Team invited the City Council, Staff and Planning and Zoning Commission to join Andres Construction in a tour of their progress on the Vitruvian project down on Brookhaven Drive. We got to go up on the top of the seven story residential building and look out across the area. The views are stunning. You can see everything for miles around. These units are going to go fast. I don't know exactly when they will be available, but when we get a little further along we will get you the answer. The downstairs on this building has 16,000 square feet of retail space, with these great high ceilings and terrific visibility. They also have some five story product that wraps around the creek and gives you this tranquil view of green leaves, branches and the water below. Two things that really stood out are the number of trees we have in the area and the terrain. When it had all those 40 year old, two story apartments on it, I always thought of that land as being relatively flat. Now that they are gone, it is obvious that it isn't. I think the new development will allow you to have a better sense of the land and its variances from one end to the other. This is just the first phase of a billion dollar project.

Neighborhood Parties

Oaks North had their neighborhood party on Saturday and Midway Meadows had one on Sunday. It is good to know your neighbors and this is something everyone enjoys doing. The town will roll out a fire truck, the police dog, an officer on a segway, just to make the event more interesting. The owners of Ferrari's Restaurant on Midway prepared and donated the food and beverages for the Midway Meadows party. Jane and Francesco Secchi were joined by their son Gavin in serving up a wonderful meal. I saw one of my neighbors have at least three meatball sandwiches, but I am not naming names.



The Political Season

During this time of year different people visit my home and ask if they can place a sign for their candidate in my yard and I have to explain to them that I am the City Manager and I do not endorse candidates. Obviously, we have to work with whomever the public elects, so we try to stay out of the middle of the politics. Admittedly it is sometimes painful to listen to the normal misinterpretation of facts and issues that go along with the political process. Our responsibility to the public, as staff, is to try to make sure that you have correct information on which to base decisions. Don't accept information from any party that will not tell you who they are. There are plenty of opportunities for you to talk directly to the candidates and determine who you think is best for Addison and we are always here to answer questions you might have on an issue. Absentee voting starts on Monday, April 27th and runs through Tuesday, May 5th. The election is Saturday, May 9th.

Dogs and Ducks

We are closing the dog park on the east end of the jogging trail for a couple of weeks to aerate the turf, fertilize, and build a gate on the north side of the facility. The owners of Office in the Park have given us permission to allow people to park in their back parking lot while using the dog park. We are going to ease into our transfer of parking to the office parking lot. We would appreciate you not parking on Le Grande.

We are proposing a stricter ban on bulk feeding of water fowl. We have an item on next Tuesday's council agenda. The hope is that we can avoid over feeding so we can avoid a lot of consequences that go along with that activity. We also have a firm that will be relocating some of the ducks. The firm is going through a permitting process with the State right now that will define how many ducks will be taken. You know when I got in this business I never dreamed I would know some of the things I know about. If you want to know more about ducks, feeding, migratory habits, etc. just come to the meeting on Tuesday, April 28th. Some of their habits are a little disturbing, so I will warn you ahead of time. We all love ducks, but we have to manage them in a humane and respectful manner.

It does amaze me how many animals we have in this urban setting, but it is really neat. We have two foxes that hop around on the creek bed behind town hall and a white crane that lunches in the creek a couple times a week. Last week my wife and I watched two hawks fly over Midway Meadows repeatedly for about an hour from our patio. They were just majestic! Then tonight when I came home from work at about 8:30 there was a small owl in our big red oak in our back yard. I tried to get a picture of him, but he wasn't in the mood and he flew off. I was sure disappointed. Just another tail from the Wild Kingdom of Addison!

Earth Kind and Buck Roses

Slade Strickland, Director of Parks and Recreation, and I took Dallas County Commissioner Maurine Dickey through the rose gardens across from the Athletic Club. The Commissioner is very interested in sustainability and in using draught tolerant and native plants. She has a demonstration garden that is maintained by the Dallas County Master Gardeners at her office. She has wanted to see how these roses are doing, so she can use some of them around her district. Slade has become a kind of expert on these roses and we are excited about the opportunity to introduce roses into the public landscape in an affordable way. They use a drip irrigation system, no fertilizer, little pruning and no spraying. I could go on forever about these great roses, but you need to go check them out and then call Slade if you want to know more.



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