



## A NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF ADDISON COMMUNITY

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*Weekly E-Newsletter July 17, 2009*

### **A Note from City Manager Ron Whitehead**

I thought I might take a minute to talk about our system of government in Addison and share a typical week of the city management staff. City Managers are basically the day to day business managers of the city and our job is to execute the policies and programs as directed by the Mayor and City Council. The City Manager serves at the pleasure of the Mayor and City Council and is appointed by that body. Lea Dunn is the Deputy City Manager and she is over Police, Fire, Human Resources, Information Technology, Finance, Marketing and Advertising and she is also the City Secretary. Chris Terry is the Assistant City Manager and he is over Public Works, Water Utilities, Addison Airport, Community Development and Special Events. Due to our sensitivity to the economy, we have eliminated a vacant Assistant City Manager position and I have assumed overseeing Parks and Recreation, Municipal Court, Visitor Services and the Conference Center. Actually we have excellent department heads that run those functions, but we are their immediate supervisors. The City Manager is responsible for leading the organization and helping the Mayor and City Council realize their goals for the community. All of the employees work for the City Manager except the City Attorney, Municipal Judge, and the City Secretary. Again, in our efforts to be as efficient as we can be, Lea is both the Deputy City Manager and the City Secretary. Those are usually two jobs staffed by two different people.

I am responsible for submitting the annual budget recommendations that accompany my understanding of the Council's goals. I mentioned last week that I would be submitting that beginning document to them by July 31st. Then we will continue to have a series of public meetings to discuss the budget and have a budget adopted by October 1st. We are in a lot of businesses, so you have to know a lot about a number of different things. That variety is what has kept me, Lea and Chris motivated and interested in this profession for so many years. You never have the same day twice and the week flies by.

Here is what happened last week:

Sunday, 6:00 – 10:00 P.M. - Lea, Chris and I had dinner with two consultants from the International City/County Management Association that are doing a study of the police and fire departments for Addison. We are always trying to stay ahead of trends and we are working on plans for what the 21st century police and fire departments will be doing. What can we do better and what businesses are we going to be engaged in, in the future. Those professions are changing as technology and public expectations change. I think there will be some exciting opportunities that emerge from the study. We are obviously very proud of both departments and we are analyzing all of the data that surrounds those functions to make sure we match resources to need to insure efficiency and effectiveness. Police, Fire and Emergency Communications account for \$14,500,000 or 50% of the 2008-09 budget, so it is important to do a forensic look at those operations from time to time.

Monday, we start every week with an administrative staff meeting that lasts about an hour and then we launch into the week. We worked on the Advocates program with our HR staff. We are working to match volunteers to functions in the town. It is going really well, but we need to move faster to get people on board and we are working on that on many fronts. We spend a lot of the day working in preparation for the council meeting on Tuesday. Greg Layman, the Assistant Police Chief has been spending the last six months in the City Managers office helping us on a number of projects. We do this from time to time. We move executives from other departments in to the manager's office to give them exposure to the larger organization and to take advantage of their unique skills. Greg set up a meeting for us downtown with Dallas County. They are helping us with funding on some of our jogging trails and pedestrian bridges along Loos Field and the Vitruvian connection to the trails at Brookhaven College. County Commissioner Maureen Dickey is a champion of jogging and bike trails and of using native, drought tolerant plant materials. She has been very supportive of our efforts throughout town.

We are working on a visitor center project, so we toured Councilmember, Blake Clemens, around to look at that concept. We have been exploring some space in the Village on the Parkway and are close to a deal. Then I came back to the office and read emails for a couple of hours. Then we went to look at a couple of street lighting projects around town and then I had dinner with the Mayor at about 9:30 P.M.

Tuesday, I met with the Mayor at 9:00 A.M. to go over the City Council agenda, followed by a meeting with the staff at 10:00 to go over the City Council agenda. Met with Councilmember Kimberly Lay to work on the Visitor Center project. Councilmember Lay is a Commercial Real Estate Broker and she has directed the effort on the leasing side of the Visitor Center project. Council members bring various backgrounds and skill sets to the council, but they cannot be compensated when they do work of this nature for the town. It is just part of their job, so for roughly \$100 a month the citizens of Addison enjoy the benefits of each council member's work and talents. Frankly, they enjoy giving of their time and understand that this is the system.

Later that afternoon we worked on the Municipal Court information technology package and I visited with our Court Administrator, Paula Dale and Judge Dwight. Then we had a meeting on the Belt Line redesign with our staff and HNTB. We are probably 60 days away from rolling out the design concepts that include landscaping, lighting, intersection design and architectural enhancements.

We had a worksession with Council at 6:00 P.M. to discuss an airport development that is coming forward and we made a presentation on the Visitor Center concept.

The Council meeting started at 7:30 P.M. and the Police Chief introduced the Criminal Investigation Division to the Mayor and Council and commended them for the excellent work they had done apprehending the perpetrators of a home burglary over on Winnwood. With the help of one of the neighbors we were able to apprehend all of the participants. Everybody in CID worked on this intensely for a number of days straight until they wrapped it up. The Mayor and Council were most appreciative of their efforts.

Our Employee Action Committee presented a check to Metrocrest Social Services for \$2817.18 for their Virtual Food Drive. Thanks to everyone that supported that effort. We went through all of the council meeting items and the City Council gave the staff the authority to pursue the lease on the Visitor Center. The meeting ended at 1:30 A.M. Wednesday morning. That is unusual, but happened because we only have one meeting in July, rather than two.

Wednesday, we have a post council meeting at 10:00 after each meeting to discuss what transpired the night before and to decide what actions we need to take to follow the council's direction from the meeting. After that we met with Post Properties to discuss some signage and retail initiatives we are working on in Addison Circle with the merchants and how we can encourage people that live in the area to support local merchants. They are working on a loyalty program for people in Addison Circle and will roll that out soon. We worked more on the Visitor Center project and then started preparing for the DISD school meeting at the Athletic Club.

We had 126 people show up to hear DISD talk about the new school that will be built at Loos Field. Councilmember Tom Braun led the meeting and School Board Trustee Edwin Flores kicked off the DISD presentation. They discussed plans for the new school and how the principal would be selected and opportunities for parental involvement. The preliminary designs by WRA Architects are very exciting. The school will be a green project with geothermal heating and cooling and some wind and solar generation. The school is scheduled to open in September 2011. We ended the meeting at 9:00 P.M.



Thursday, 6:15 A.M., Lea Dunn and I went with Hamid Khaleghipour, our IT Director, to the Texas Technology Forum in Las Colinas. Jerry Mechling of the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard was speaking on Leadership in Hard Times, What will You Do? It was a great discussion and there were a couple of main thoughts that I took away from it. The first was a reminder that often, out of adversity comes opportunity. He asked, "Due to the economy, how many of you are looking to do things in a different way?" Every one in the room raised their hand and then we talked about how adversity caused you to be more creative and productive. He used this quote from Rahm Emanuel, President Obama's Chief of Staff, "You never want a serious crisis to go to waste. What I mean is it's an opportunity to do things that you

think you could not do before. This is an opportunity.” Dr. Mechling then talked about hunkering down in this economy. The rest of his speech was around “Beyond hunkering down, what can we do?” Obviously there were recommendations oriented to the IT world, but the main idea is take some time and look at what you are doing and see if you can be creative and generate new ideas. My opinion is, you can’t just hunker down if you are a city. You have to find better ways of doing things and ways to promote and work with your strategic partners; who in a city are your citizens, businesses, visitors, city employees and of course the Mayor and City Council. We are going to work harder and smarter, hunker a little and think a lot about how we need to do things in the future.

That afternoon we had a watermelon break for our employees. We do this every summer and we talk about how much we appreciate them for doing the work of the town in some pretty extreme conditions. Doing much of anything in 105 degrees is tough, but many of the functions we perform are particularly taxing and we also take this time to remind them to look out for each other, stay hydrated, wear protective clothing and just generally be safe. It takes about an hour and the Mayor and Council show up to illustrate their support. It felt like it was a hundred degrees in the shade in the fire station bay, but the watermelon and the camaraderie was great!



We finished this day with some desk work, answering mail, emails, phone calls, etc. We wrapped up about 6:30 P.M.

Friday, Lea Dunn, Chris Terry and I meet from about 9:00 to 11:00 A.M. to review projects and issues from the week. We had lunch at 11:30 at the White Rock Chapel at Winnwood and Celestial. The Church had an old building on site that used to be the parsonage. We never could figure out what to do with it, because it was pretty much a wreck. Tom Lamberth of United Dominion Realty met Pastor Billy Joe Forward and he saw an opportunity for his company and many of the companies working on the Vitruvian project, to have a community project. We all decided to take the building down and see if there were any pieces that might be salvaged and included in a new church building. UDR, Andrus Construction and many of their subs are donating their time and money to the church project. Pastor Forward and Mr. Elbert Winn were there to participate in the luncheon and kick off the project. We will keep you posted on the project.

I spent most of the rest of the afternoon looking at parks and landscaping projects with Slade Strickland, our Director of Parks and Recreation. We went to a couple of other cities and looked at some median plantings and then reviewed some of our projects. We meet every Friday afternoon at 2:00.

It is 6:00 P.M. and I am ending this email or Lea and Carolyn Sedwick, the incredibly kind and patient lady who puts the email letter together each week, may want to choke me. There is a lot of other stuff that went on during the week, but I hope I have given you a glance into what we do and how interesting it is. People ask me sometimes, “Do you guys ever go home?” I tell them we actually do and we are pretty good at managing our home and family life.” When my children were little I made a decision to not miss anything they ever did and I stuck to that and I am very proud of them and our relationship. It is what you have to do, to do this business. I scheduled everything around them and I happen to be married to an incredibly independent and loving wife, Donna. She always says, “I knew what he was when I married him!” I was the Assistant City Manager in Irving.

Lea Dunn and Chris Terry are great at managing work and family also and happen to be the other key to how all of this works. They are the best at what they do.

Hope you had a good week too!



## ***Taste Dance - Addison Style!***



Dance Council will host four companies showcasing dance from around the world. This is a wonderful program and an opportunity to learn some new dance steps. Make plans to attend Sunday, August 2nd from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. The event will be held at the Addison Conference & Theatre Centre at 15650 Addison Road and will showcase the following:

Latin Formation Group  
Maguire School of Irish Dance  
Dallas Ballet Company  
J. K. Wong Kungfu Tai Chi Academy (Lion Dance)

For more information visit [www.thedancecouncil.org](http://www.thedancecouncil.org)

## ***Finance Department Receives Award***

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) created a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award in 1984 to encourage governments to prepare budget documents of the highest quality to meet the needs of decision-makers and citizens.

In order to receive this award, a governmental unit must publish a budget document that meets program criteria as a policy document, as an operations guide, as a financial plan and as a communications device.

The Town of Addison has received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award every year since 1987 and has received notice that the annual budget for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2008 has also received this distinction.

There were several comments made by the GFOA reviewer that highlight the quality of the 2008 Budget document. They include:

- "This document, however, is as close to being flawless that such detailed comments are unnecessary
- "Addison with this document has taken budget presentation to the next level."
- "The symmetry and creativity, combined with sound financial practice, make this a compelling compendium."



Mayor Joe Chow  
and  
Randy Moravec, Chief Financial Officer

## [School's Out for Summer Food Drive](#)



Accepting the check was Lou Sartor, Board President and Defae Weaver, Director of Development. Mayor Joe Chow is on the left and EAC Member Nicole Newkham is on the right.

Addison's Employee Action Committee (EAC) wishes to thank everyone for their generosity in the School's Out for Summer Food Drive from May 1 to 31, 2009!

Due to everyone's contributions, the Town of Addison was able to donate over 20 boxes of food to Metrocrest Social Services, with an estimated value of \$2,375.

Through our **Virtual Drive** and our "**Share the Wealth**" week we raised \$2,817.18. A special thank you goes to Addison Rotary Foundation for their donation of \$1,000 and to Marriott Courtyard Addison Midway for donating over \$600!! Thank you to all the individuals and businesses that contributed. At the July 14 Council Meeting, the Town of Addison was able to present Metrocrest with a check for this amount. Cash donations are vital to Metrocrest as every \$1 donated can purchase \$10 worth of food in bulk.

Thank you again for your donations and put us on the calendar for next year! For more information about Metrocrest Social Services go to <http://www.metrocrestsocialservices.org/>

## [Storm Water Management](#)

Check out the following link to learn how you can assist the Town in its efforts to curb stormwater pollution and also learn about the Texas SmartScape program. This program provides all the tools you need to plan your garden, select the right plants and care for them in a manner that protects our streams and rivers and conserves our water resources.

[http://www.addisontx.gov/Departments/public\\_works/News\\_Articles/Storm\\_Water\\_Pollution\\_Prevention.asp](http://www.addisontx.gov/Departments/public_works/News_Articles/Storm_Water_Pollution_Prevention.asp)



## [WaterTower Theatre](#)



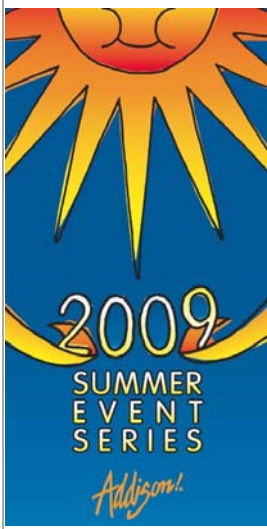
### **UNNECESSARY FARCE**

Paul Slade Smith

In a cheap motel room, an embezzling mayor meets with his female accountant while two undercover cops wait in the room next door to videotape the tryst. But there's some confusion as to who's in which room, who's being videotaped, who's taken the money, who's hired a hit man, and why the accountant keeps running around in her underwear. In the grand tradition of *Noises Off*, *Unnecessary Farce* is a side-splitting comedy sure to have you rolling in the aisles with laughter.

Visit <http://www.watertowertheatre.org/> for more info.

## [Summer Series](#)



### [July Jazz](#)

Listen to some of the areas top jazz musicians while you picnic or dine at one of the Addison Circle restaurants, every Saturday in July. Admission is FREE. Located at Beckert Park (formerly Esplanade Park) and beginning at 8:00 pm.

July 18 - Joseph Vincelli  
July 25 - Breggett Rideau

[Visit this site for additional details](#)

## [Cavanaugh Flight Museum - B-24 Rides](#)

Cavanaugh Flight Museum is now taking B-24 Ride Reservations for Saturday, July 25th.

Imagine 1944, crawling up into a B-24 Liberator. You are one of a ten man flight crew, young, far from home, climbing to altitude, 30 degrees below zero, flying missions in the fight to defeat tyranny and defend freedom. Experience flight on the Commemorative Air Force B-24A Liberator. Hear the rumble and roar of the engines, feel the wind in your face.

Honor the men and women of that era who rallied when America asked. Your flight donation keeps the memories alive by supporting this historic aircraft. Keep 'em flying!

For more information visit <http://www.cafb29b24.org/a/Book-A-Ride.htm>.

## [Ferrari's Italian Villa](#)

### **July Sardinian Menu**

Experience July in Sardinia at Ferrari's Italian Villa.

Monday through Thursday during the month of July, Francesco Secchi (who is from Sardinia) has devised a bill of fare that showcases Sardinian cuisine with wine - Vermentino (white) or Cannonau (red).

Each dish, which includes a glass of wine, is \$25.00.

[Click here to view the menu.](#)

## [Addison Perks](#)

Addison is always a blast with tons of things to see and do, but we really light up the sky with Kaboom Town! and our Addison Perks for July, "Blast off with Burgers!" There's nothing more patriotic than sharing your July with family, friends and fabulous burgers from any of our fantastic eateries!

The following restaurants are participating this month:

Burger House Hamburgers  
Great Outdoors Sub Shop  
Humperdink's  
J's Breakfast & Burgers  
Joe's Italian Cafe  
Logan's  
May Dragon  
McDonald's  
Stadium Cafe  
Topz Healthier Burger Grill  
Vernon's Grille



Click on the link below to sign-up and stay tuned for next months great offers from Addison Perks.

To sign-up for ADDISON PERKS click here <http://www.addisontexas.net/>

## [Upcoming Meetings](#)

For a listing of upcoming 2009 Town Council meetings [click here](#).

## [Comments? Suggestions?](#)

To place comments and suggestions please to go [www.addisontx.gov](http://www.addisontx.gov) and CLICK on "Citizen Support Center".

[CLICK HERE](#) to subscribe.