



COMMUNITY UPDATE TOWN OF LITTLE ELM

FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2010

ANNUAL CITIZENS SURVEY Do We Measure Up to Your Expectations?

Our 4th **Annual Citizens Survey** is being conducted "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 February 20th.**

FATHER/ DAUGHTER VALENTINES DANCE

The Little Elm Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the Father/Daughter Valentines Dance on **February 12th**, 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.

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, February 11th at 7pm at Town Hall**. Please contact Town Manager Ivan Langford at 214-975-0405 or ilangford@littleelm.org if you have any questions.

PARKS & RECREATION NEWS

ATHLETICS

The Town of Little Elm will be offering **Youth Track** through the LE Lightning Track Club. Registration accepted through April 19th for boys & girls ages 5 – 18 years old. Early registration is \$10 off through March

20th. Fees are \$50 Conditioning (no competition) or, \$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.

Adult Spring Softball – The Parks and Recreation Department is offering both a men's league and a co-ed league, with games to be played on Monday, Thursday, Friday, and Sunday evenings. Registration runs through February 19th. Cost is \$350 per team. Don't have a team? Add your name to our Free Agent list. For more information visit www.littleelfun.org or contact Scott Dunn at 972-731-3294.

Adult Tennis League registration starts February 8th thru March 12th. League play begins the week of March 22nd. 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 8th thru March 19th. League play begins the week of March 29th. 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.

Coming Soon for Adults – Ultimate Frisbee, Soccer, Table Tennis, Basketball, and Kickball. Want more information? Contact Scott Dunn at 972-731-3294 or sdunn@littleelm.org.

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.

Spring Break Tennis Camp – The Parks and Recreation Department will be offering a Spring Break

Tennis Camp from March 15th thru 19th. 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.littleelmfun.org or contact Scott Dunn at 972-731-3294.

LEAYSA Youth Softball Registration runs through February 20th. Girls and Boys ages 5 – 14 can participate. Register online at www.leaysa.com or in person at **Hibbett's Sports** on **February 13th & 20th** from 10:00am to 3:00pm. For additional information please contact Mickey Lawson at softball@leaysa.com.

The Little Elm Horseshoe Pitching Club is seeking residents that would be interested in joining the club and participating in organized horseshoe pitching with weekly leagues and tournament play. League and tournament play will be held in Beard Park. For more information or to join the club, contact Coyce Allen at 469-362-9711 or cvalle1156@aol.com.

FITNESS

SoccerTots is now taking registrations for winter 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.

Kenpo Karate classes are being offered at the Little Elm Community Center on Tuesdays and Wednesdays of each month. Classes offered are: Little Dragons (ages 2-5) 5:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., Kid Kicks Super Stars (ages 6-12) 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., and Teens/Adults (13 and up) 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Registration required. Kenpo is a form of self-defense. All the moves and techniques are defensive, used to protect oneself from an attack. Kenpo simply put is “pure intelligence of thought and motion”. Instructor/Director/Founder, Dr. Alvin “Sifu” Mack Jr. PhD/Ma.Sc./Ma.Ph. is a 5th degree black belt in Kenpo Karate, as well as many other accomplishments. Sifu Mack is dedicated to educating the student in the theory of Kenpo. To register for a class or for more information contact 940-320-7773 or visit www.umaatc.org.

Interested in Boot Camp, Home School PE, Mommy & Me Classes, or Speed/Agility/Quickness Classes (SAQ)? Contact Scott Dunn at 972-731-3294 or sdunn@littleelm.org.

To receive updates on Adult and Youth Recreational activities, subscribe at www.ci.little-elm.tx.us/list.aspx.

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.

Enjoy ice cream treats and social time at our **Sweetheart Ice Cream Social** on February 12th at 4:00 p.m., at the Little Elm Community Center.

Join the Little Elm Seniors as we take a trip to enjoy **shopping at Antiques & Moore and lunch at the Rose Garden Tea Room** (located inside antique mall). February 26th, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. RSVP to Missy Meador at 972-731-3296. More details will be provided upon RSVP.

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.

Like playing cards, dominos and more? Join us for **Game Day** every Thursday at 10:00 a.m., at the Little Elm Community Center. Bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Meet & Eat! Join us for lunch...everyone pays their own way, just come and enjoy the company and good food. February 8th at 12:00 p.m., at Pizza Hut (buffet), 9550 Dallas Parkway, Frisco and February 19th at 12:00 p.m., at Prairie House, 10001 US Highway 380, Crossroads. 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 **Movie Day** every Wednesday at 2:00 p.m., at the Little Elm Community Center. Popcorn will be served and a list of scheduled movies can be found on our website.

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!

LIBRARY HAPPENINGS

Are You A Safe Driver?

The Little Elm library is hosting the AARP Driver Safety Program on Saturday, February 27th from 10am-2:30pm. The cost is \$12 for AARP members and \$14 for non-AARP members. Take the classroom refresher course especially designed for drivers age 50 or over. Auto insurance discounts in most states (consult your insurance agent). Registration is required so call the library at 214-975-0430 to reserve your spot today!

Tax Man Has Cometh

It's tax time again! AARP is providing free Tax-Aide help for taxpayers with low and moderate income, with special attention to those ages 60 and older. They will be at the Little Elm library every Thursday from 2pm-7:00pm starting Thursday, February 4th. Though walk-ins are welcome, appointments are encouraged. Please call the library at 214-975-0430 to reserve your spot and find out what documents you will need to bring.

Sam's Club @ Your Library

The library is hosting Sam's Club on Wednesday, February 24th from 11:00am – 2:00pm. This is a great opportunity to find out what Sam's Club is all about and they will have free giveaway bags as well.

Questions? Here's How to Contact Us

Your library has many resources, programs, and services available for you. Please contact us at 214-975-0430, email library@littleelm.org, or visit the webpage at www.littleelm.org/library. To get weekly newsletters about upcoming events visit the library webpage, click on Get Connected, type in your email address; check the Page by Page newsletter box, then click submit. We look forward to hearing from you.

TEEN NIGHT ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS CONTINUING

Parents and older high school age students are encouraged to participate in order to have a successful Teen Night Program in Little Elm. Please contact Correne Lynch-Fierro at 972-292-1840 ext 26005 or clynch@leisd.ws.

NOTICE OF DEADLINE TO FILE APPLICATION FOR PLACE ON THE BALLOT

Notice is hereby given that applications for the May 8th **Town Council Regular Election** may be filed during the following times:

FILING DATE AND TIMES:

Start Date: February 8, 2010

End Date: March 8, 2010

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Physical address for filing applications in person for place on the ballot:

Little Elm Town Hall

100 West Eldorado Parkway

Little Elm, Texas 75068

Council Positions on ballot will be District 2 and District 4:

District 2 generally located north of Eldorado Parkway (FM 720) east of Woodlake Parkway.

District 4 generally located south of Eldorado Parkway (FM 720) east of FM 423.

To view more detailed map of Districts 2 & 4: <http://www.littleelm.org/districtmap>. Please call the Town Secretary at 214-975-0404 or email kphillips@littleelm.org with any questions.

BE COUNTED in 2010!

Every 10 years since 1790, there has been a Census in America. This year, it will be time to be counted and the Little Elm Complete Count Committee needs your help. In March, begin looking for the 2010 Census form. When you receive it at your home, do not delay, fill out the quick and easy 10 question form and return it via mail. We hope to have everyone counted by the deadline which is April 1st. The questionnaire responses should represent the household as it exists when you receive the form.

Mayor Charles Platt says, "There is \$400 Billion of annual federal funding at stake and a complete count of everyone living in Little Elm on April 1st will ensure that we get out fair share." If you want to become involved in encouraging your neighbors and friends to participate, join Little Elm Complete Count Committee (CCC), contact John Taylor at 214-975-0455 for more information. At your home, mark the calendar in March and get ready to fill out the census form!

Why is the Census Important?

Every 10 years, the U.S. Census Bureau undertakes a mammoth task: tallying up all the people living in the United States and recording basic information such as age, sex, and race. The founding Fathers thought this data, called the census, was so important they mandated it as part of the Constitution. But today, some people question the importance of the census, and some complain that it's an invasion of privacy.

So why do we have a census? What is the information used for?

"The census is most definitely important. Our whole representative democracy is based on it," says Gordon De Jong, professor of sociology and demography and senior scientist in Penn State's Population Research Institute. "The census ensures that each community gets the right number of representatives in government." Because representation is based on population, an up-to-date tally is essential.

The census also helps with the equitable distribution of public funds, De Jong says, as federal and state funding for things like educational programs, healthcare, law enforcement and highways is allocated in part based on population. "Equitably distributing the billions of dollars of public money requires up-to-date population data."

In broad terms, the census helps us see how our country is changing. In the 2000 census, 281.4 million people were counted in the United States, an increase of 13.2 percent from the 1990 census population of 248.7 million. The highest rates of population growth were reported in the South and West.

The Census Bureau is nothing if not persistent. "For the decennial [every-ten-year] census, first, questionnaires are mailed out to every household," De Jong explains. "If these are not returned, then this is followed by a second mailing and phone calls. If there is no response, then a census worker will visit the household."

But for a more accurate profile, demographers need more than the basic information mandated by the decennial census, De Jong says. The American Community Survey (ACS) fills the gap. This annual survey provides information on 46 topics, including income/poverty, employment status, and education level. "About 3 million households are chosen annually as a representative sample of the whole country," he notes. The American Community Survey is a separate activity conducted by the US Census Bureau and not any part of the decennial census being conducted next month.

The information provided by the ACS can help lawmakers design new legislation, De Jong says. "I was involved in initiating the Children's Health Insurance Program in Pennsylvania, known as CHIP. To get that going, we had to know how many children in the state were uninsured—and the best way to get an accurate, trustworthy source of that information was from a Census Bureau ACS survey."

While census data are useful to lawmakers, the same information may be of interest to marketing companies, political groups, and even nosy neighbors curious about the family next door. For this reason, some people are reluctant to participate in the census, including U.S. Representative Michele Bachmann (R, MN). Bachmann spoke out about her census concerns in a recent "Good Morning America" interview, commenting that the census has become "very intricate, very personal." She expressed fears that [partisan political groups might be part of the Census Bureau's door-to-door information collection efforts](#). Could census data fall into the wrong hands? "The data from the decennial census and all Census Bureau surveys, including the American Community Survey, are protected by law," De Jong says. "Personal information like names and addresses can never be released. Statistical summaries of the data for

geographic areas and political units are available on the Web, but there is no way that individual households could be identified based on their responses," he explains. "And the Census Bureau has training to ensure that employees handle the data responsibly."

For De Jong, the civic duty of taking part in the census far outweighs other concerns. "The census was mandated by the founding Fathers," he reminds, "as the basis for our republic—our way of government." And if civic duty isn't enough to motivate you, refusing to participate in the decennial census is punishable by a fine.

Water Taste and Odor – Winter Algal Bloom

Residents may have noticed a recent change in the taste and odor of their drinking water. The Town has been notified by our water supplier, the North Texas Municipal Water District, of a winter algal bloom in our primary water supply, Lake Lavon. Taste and odor changes in treated drinking water caused by blooms may be detected by residents who are more sensitive to these changes. This is usually observed as an earthy or metallic taste and/or odor. The taste and odor is a palatability issue only. The palatability change that results from a naturally occurring algal bloom does not alter the quality of the water provided. The water supply remains safe for use with no health risks created by this event. Additional information on winter algal blooms and plans by our water supplier to implement an ozonation plan to prevent these events in the future is available on the Town website at www.littleelmtx.us. If residents have questions about taste and odor or water quality, please contact the Public Works Department at publicworks@littleelm.org or 214-975-0475.

STAY UP-TO-DATE ON ROAD CLOSURES

Nearly everyone in Little Elm is affected by the ongoing construction taking place on Eldorado Parkway and on FM 423. The Town closely monitors all construction activity and will attempt to notify you in advance of any expected closures or delays. Just go to the Town's web site at <http://www.ci.little-elm.tx.us/list.asp> and sign up for our List Serv updates.

WATER BILLING OFFICE - DIRECT NUMBER 214-975-0480
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