

CityScape

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At the Kaufman Volunteer Fire Department banquet held in December 2006, Grady Campbell was honored as Firefighter of the Year. Selection for this award by the personnel committee is based on volunteer hours, performance, and the number of fire calls made by a volunteer. Campbell (left) received a plaque from Fire Chief Eddie Brown.

A NOTICEABLE IMPROVEMENT

The City has joined forces with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and the Kaufman Chamber of Commerce to landscape the U.S. Highway 175 overpass at State Highway 34. The project will consist of trees, shrubs and other foliage tolerant to this area's climate as well as new sidewalks and retaining walls with signage on the southeast and northwest sides of the overpass. The concrete pillars and beams underneath the overpass will also be painted an appealing color. The medians will be stamped asphalt and concrete simulating the look of brick.

TxDOT plans on bidding the project out this spring with the final planting of the landscaping this fall. TxDOT will maintain the landscaping the first six months with the City maintaining it thereafter.

A special acknowledgement and word of thanks to the staff members of the local TxDOT district office located on South Washington Street for making this project a reality. ■

SPAY/NEUTER PROJECT OFF TO A GOOD START

In November 2006, the City of Kaufman received a \$10,000 grant through Pet Smart Charities. This grant is providing low cost (\$5) spay/neuter surgeries for pets belonging to City of Kaufman residents. All surgeries are performed at the Kaufman County Animal Awareness Project's (KCAAP) regional veterinary clinic located in Crandall, Texas. Through December, 59 surgeries

CITY RECEIVES GOOD REPORT

At the regular City Council meeting on January 22, 2006, the City's outside auditing firm, Witherpoon, Yeldell and Wilson, reported that the City had a "clean year" in fiscal year 2006 with no reportable conditions. The City met all debt requirements, paid cash for much needed vehicles and equipment, and maintained a healthy reserve for contingencies.

The City ended the year with \$393,776 more revenue than budgeted. Expenditures for the year came in \$218,432 under budget. Added together, the financial standing of the City improved by \$612,208 during fiscal year 2006. The fiscal year 2007 budget provides for continuing the street rehabilitation program at \$300,000 a year and the replacement of worn out vehicles and equipment. Revenue generated in fiscal year 2006 will pay for many of these costs.

The City added \$2 million in capital assets in fiscal year 2006. The majority of this was a result of ongoing sewer line improvements. The City continues its long range plan to manage debt while re-investing in infrastructure and equipment. ■

NEW PLANTINGS

The Keep Kaufman Beautiful Board designated \$1,000 from their city budget to go towards the purchase of new shrubs to improve the appearance of several city parks. At the end of September 2006, one hundred and thirty (130) shrubs, potting soil and mulch were purchased. The City of Kaufman Public Works Department planted these shrubs at Melody Park, Kaufman Sports Complex, and the vacant lot beside City Hall to enhance the beauty of these facilities. ■



City of Kaufman
209 S. Washington,
Kaufman, TX 75142
Tel: 972.932.2216
Metro: 972.962.5321
Fax: 972.932.0307
kaufmantx@mycvc.net

funded by this grant have been performed. Grant funds remaining total \$7,703. The City encourages pet owners to take advantage of this grant while funds last. City residents without transportation can also take advantage of the program thanks to the KCAAP shuttle service. For more information, to schedule surgery, arrange for shuttle service or to become a volunteer, call 972-472-3500. ■

NEW FIRE TRUCK DELIVERED

As you drive by the City of Kaufman's fire station, take notice of the City's newest piece of fire equipment. The new ladder truck manufactured by Pierce Fire Apparatus was delivered this week and will be put into service during the month of February. Training classes for both the use and maintenance of the equipment are scheduled for the first part of February. Upon completion, both paid firemen and volunteer firemen will be trained to operate the special features of the Quint fire apparatus which includes a 75 foot aerial ladder with nozzle and a 1,500 gpm pump and foam system. The unit carries a

500 gallon water tank and is equipped with 1,000 feet of 5" supply hose and various other hoses for fire suppression. The unit is outfitted with numerous ground ladders along with various rescue and firefighting tools.

Historically, the Kaufman Fire Department has been forced to rely on neighboring cities to provide vital aerial fire protection when needed. Quick response of fire equipment and manpower is vital in containing fires and this new piece of firefighting equipment will assist in providing immediate coverage for the city's fire and rescue needs.

CITY BOARD RECRUITMENT

The city's Keep Kaufman Beautiful Board is seeking a citizen of Kaufman to fill a vacancy on this board. The KKBB meets the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the city hall Council Chambers. The meetings last approximately one hour. The present board members are Lisa Parker, Shana Holder, Karla Chandler, Elaine Marusak, Mary Rene Cline and Janis Lindsey.

The projects/programs the board is working to implement are:

1. Beautification of the vacant lot in the 300 block of South Washington Street (in front of the Kaufman Fire Station);
2. Main Streets Trash Bash Clean Up in October;
3. An aluminum can recycling program;
4. A cellular phone recycling program;
5. An annual membership program; and
6. July 4th Celebration Parade (5th Annual).

If you are interested in making a difference in the community and would like to serve on the Keep Kaufman Beautiful Board, please contact Jo Ann Talbot, Asst City Manager/City Secretary at city hall (972/932-2216) for more details.

2005 TCDP GRANT PROJECT FINISHED

The water line replacement project supported by grant funds from the State of Texas Office of Rural Community Affairs has been completed. The \$250,000 grant required the City to contribute \$62,565 toward the project. This provided for line replacement on Jefferson Street from Fourth Street to Seago, East Grove Street from the old railroad to Highway 34, and Highway 34 from Grove Street to the Kaufman Sports Complex. This project replaced old cast iron lines that were installed as early as 1950.

STREET OVERLAY PROJECT COMPLETE

Another step toward better streets in the City of Kaufman has been completed. JRJ Paving of Denton, Texas recently completed approximately \$340,000 of street improvements. This brings the total for the past two years to approximately \$600,000 for street overlay. The next phase of street improvements will be discussed during the budget process next summer.

WATER CONSERVATION STILL IN EFFECT

The City remains under Stage 3 of the Drought Contingency Plan. Lake Lavon is the major water source for the City's water supplier, North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD). Recent rains raised the level of water in the lake six feet, but Lake Lavon is still at least ten feet below normal level. North Texas Municipal Water District also supplies water to Allen, Farmersville, Forney, Frisco, Garland, McKinney, Mesquite, Plano, Princeton, Richardson, Rockwall, Roysse City and Wylie. NTMWD total water usage charts show 2006 usage to be more than 2004/2005 and continues to be greater usage than their conservation goal. Water restrictions are still in effect and the City asks for continued compliance.

TIP CORNER

Now is the time for residential customers to monitor their water usage. Residential sewer charges are based on the individual customer's average water consumption for the months of January, February, and March. New sewer rates based on this "winter average usage" goes into effect with the June utility billing cycle and remains in effect for twelve months. Saving a little water now will save you money on your sewer charges later.

*Council meets third Monday
Planning Commission meets first Monday
Park Board meets third Thursday
KKB meets second Tuesday*

Newsletter Staff

*Cathy Cummins, Chief Editor
Cindy Kintz, Writer
Joy Henderson, Writer
James M. Smith, Writer
Margaret Barr, Writer
Wade Ballard, Writer*