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which is why your emergency is met with urgency at Methodist Richardson Medical Center. Every minute counts, so we're here for you 24/7 to treat you on time, anytime. For our immediate treatment of potential heart attack patients, Methodist Richardson is designated as a fully Accredited Chest Pain Center—the highest level of accreditation by the Society of Chest Pain Centers. So, in case of emergency, brake at the Emergency Department at either Methodist Richardson campus. Methodist is your ER for life.







Learn more at 972-4 DR LINE MethodistRichardson.org Methodist Richardson Medical Center

401 W. Campbell Road Richardson, Texas 75080 Methodist Richardson Medical Center Bush/Renner

2831 E. President George Bush Turnpike Richardson, Texas 75082

*Methodical Richardson Medical Center Completi Composis designated an Accordated Chest Pain Center by the Society of Class Pain Center by the Society of Class Pain Center.

Texas law provides incorporate from providing medicals the physicians on the Methodical Richardson medical staff are endependent practificness who are not employees or agents of Methodical Health System or Methodical Richardson Medical Center.

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www.wylieedc.com



Wylie Economic Development Corporation

972.442.7901

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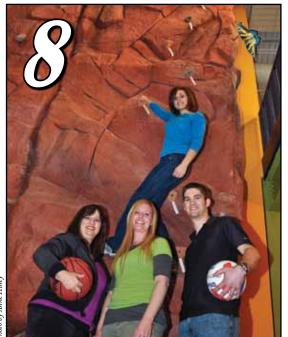


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On The Cover



WYLIE RECREATION CENTER STAFF Katy Burton (on wall), Annika Sacco. Carmen Powlen & Steven Harben

COLUMNS

- CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CLINIC
- **CHARACTER EDUCATION**
- **EXERCISE FOR HEALTH**
- **COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS**
- **NEW CHAMBER MEMBERS**
- **LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS**
- RETIREMENT PLANNING



PROFILE OF SUCCESS

CITY OF WYLIE'S NEW **RECREATION CENTER**

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Center For Pain Management at Wylie

FEATURES

- WYLIE'S NEW CITY COMPLEX
- SACHSE'S NEW CITY COMPLEX
- **MURPHY PARKS**
- LOVE STORIES
- **COMMUNITY CALENDAR**
- **CHOCOLATE IS FOR LOVERS**



Coloring Contest Winners: Olivia Callager, Collin Callager and Regina Vehige! Thank you to all who entered!!

2 • The Connection • January/February 2011 www.wyliechamber.ora • 3

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT





Carey Cox, Ashley Shultz, Cristina Bow, Darlene Quach, Amanda Hall, Dr. Benjamin Wiseman

n life, sometimes pain grabs hold and just won't let go—for weeks, months, even years. That's when you need a pain specialist. But how do you find one?

Program your GPS for 600 Cooper Drive—the location of the new Baylor Center for Pain Management at Wylie. An outpatient department of Baylor Medical Center at Garland, the center opened in November and is dedicated to the prevention, evaluation, diagnosis and treatment of pain disorders.

"We've been working to open a Center for Pain Management at Wylie for a while now, and we're very excited that the time has finally arrived," says Jeannene Ingram, director of market development/pain management for Baylor Health Care System.



Map Out a Route

When patients come to the Baylor Center for Pain Management at Wylie, they meet with the physician to design a personalized treatment plan to:

- Identify and eliminate the source of pain, when possible
- Minimize physical symptoms
- Decrease disability caused by pain
- Help resume a more productive role at home and work

Like all Baylor Centers for Pain Management, the Wylie location has clinicians highly skilled in advanced pain management techniques, and the physicians on our medical staff are board-certified.

Begin the Journey

"Our focus at the Baylor Center for Pain Management at Wylie is on interventional procedures to relieve chronic neck and back pain," says Carey Cox, practice administrator for the Baylor Center for Pain Management at Wylie. These include:

- Radiofrequency lesioning (rhizotomy)—a procedure that sends radio waves (heat) through a needle to damage nerve endings and interrupt pain signals
- Nerve blocks
- Joint injections
- Spinal cord stimulators

The No. 1 goal is to alleviate pain, restore function, and return patients back to doing the things they love.

The Baylor Center for Pain Management at Wylie is located next door to the Baylor Family Medicine Center. The Baylor Center for Pain Management at Richardson is off of North Central Expressway. Patients are welcome with a physician referral, or you can self-refer with help from a Pain Management Navigator at Baylor Garland.

PUT AN END TO PAIN

Visit **BaylorHealth.com/GarlandPain** to find out more about your pain management options and get a physician referral.

NAVIGATE YOUR PAIN

Attention, pain sufferers: know your treatment options! The Pain Management Navigators at Baylor Garland are specially trained to steer you in the right direction. Just follow these steps anytime, 24/7:

- 1. Call 1-800-4-BAYLOR.
- 2. Ask for a Pain Management Navigator.
- **3.** Answer some quick questions about your pain, such as how long it has been bothering you and what part of the body is affected.
- **4.** The Pain Management Navigator will explain your options and set up a convenient appointment so you can get on the road to relief!



OPTIONS

When you are dealing with chronic pain, just finding the right treatment can be painful. But relief could be a phone call away. You can talk to a Pain Management Navigator whose job is to guide you through all your scheduling options and who can set up appointments for you. So if you're ready to deal with your pain once and for all, call us. And you won't have to deal with it alone.

TWO LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU

WYLIE – North of FM 544 on Highway 78

RICHARDSON - Located on Central Expressway South of Renner

For more information or to schedule an appointment, ask for a pain management navigator at 1.800.4BAYLOR or visit us online at BaylorHealth.com/WyliePain and BaylorHealth.com/RichardsonPain.

WYLIE – 600 Cooper Dr., Ste. 110, Wylie, TX 75098 RICHARDSON – 2520 N. Central Expwy., Ste. 400, Richardson, TX 75080



A department of Baylor Medical Center at Garland

Physicians are members of the medical staff as one of Baylor Health Care System's subsidiary, community or affiliated medical centers and are neither employees nor agents of those medical centers, Baylor Medical Center as Garland, Baylor Centers for Pain Management or Baylor Health Care System. ©2010 Baylor Health Care System BMCGar TC CE 12.10

From us to you.....



It's a New Year!

We have reached that point again as the calendar turns over, where all is NEW and we look forward to a fresh start in the coming year.

We run with that theme in this issue of The Connection as we look at the NEW municipal complexes (or NEWnicipal complexes!) in Sachse and Wylie. We also spotlight the NEW Recreation Center in Wylie, adjacent to the NEW City Hall. In Murphy we chose to highlight the NEW development taking place within the Murphy Parks Department for the coming year.

Also NEW - we have moved into NEW digs! Stop in and visit us at our new location: 250 S. Hwy. 78, formerly the Kellar Williams building. It's right next door to Wylie Printing and Office Supply. Come in, head down the hall on your left, say hello to Sam & Gerry with the Economic Development Corporation as you round the corner, keep going 'cuz we are in the back at the end of the hall!

With two months per issue, don't forget February – also known as the "Month of Love" according to the greeting card companies, florists and candy makers. No "Month of Love" would be complete without a love story or two and a feature on chocolate! Around our office chocolate is considered a food group, and we welcome chocolate gifts all year!

These are just a few things you will read about in the coming pages and we hope, as always, to have presented you with a new information, programs or ideas that will enhance your time in our little neck of the Collin County woods.

Thanks for allowing us to be your Connection to the area. We look forward to the ride in 2011!

Mike - Becky - Anne

A Wylie Chamber of Commerce Publication 108-A W. Marble | Wylie, TX 75098 Telephone: 972-442-2804 Fax: 972-429-0139 www.wyliechamber.org • info@wyliechamber.org

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For information about advertising in The Connection Magazine please contact Becky Lindstrom at 214-228-5844 or blindstrom@wyliechamber.org. Story ideas should be submitted to Anne Hiney at theconnection.anne@mac.com.

The Connection is published bimonthly by the Wylie Chamber of Commerce. The Connection is mailed free of charge to over 31,000 households in the Wylie/Sachse/Murphy/Lavon area and more than 1,000 copies are distributed to local businesses. Contents of this magazine may not be reproduced without written permission from the publisher. Advertisers and advertising agencies assume liability for content of all advertisements. Information published in The Connection is the opinion of the sourced authors. The Wylie Chamber of Commerce does not necessarily share the editorial opinions expressed in The Connection magazine. Personal decisions regarding health, finance and other matters should be made after consultation with the reader's professional advisors. The "Profile of Success" cover photograph and feature article, as well as the "Business Spotlight", are paid advertisemen



Just for fun, find the butterfly! Last issue it was hidden in the helicopter photo on page 40.

Occasionally we make a mistake. Let us know if you find one so we can correct it. We love your feedback send comments to info@wyliechamber.org. Story ideas are always welcome and appreciated. Thanks for "Connecting" with us!





Happy Birthday Wylie Eye Center TSO

It is hard to believe it has already been a year since we've opened on historic downtown Ballard Street. Time really does fly when you're having fun! It has been a joy meeting so many amazing families and we truly appreciate your support. We look forward to another fantastic year and wish you a blessed 2011. Sincerely,

Lisa, Kelly, Nic and Dr. Anderson



117 N. Ballard Ave. - Wylie

(972)429-9090

www.TSO.com



Wylie Eye Center TSO is a full-service eye care center located in Historic Downtown Wylie.

Call us at 972-429-9090 to schedule your appointment.

Open Monday – Friday and every first and third Saturday of each month.

Extreme Makeover Glasses!

We had great fun giving our Extreme Makeover Winner a day to remember. What a remarkable difference she notices in her new high fashion prescription glasses. Thanks to Wendy Millsap at Simply Nails and Hair for giving her a beautiful new look for Christmas.



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Opening February 1

New Year + New Recreation Center = Ne

by Craig Kelly

New Years' goals of better health and fitness will be accomplished for Wylie, Sachse, Murphy, Lavon and area residents in 2011. The 47,000 square foot City of Wylie Recreation Center will open its doors on February 1, 2011.

ocated at 300 Country Club Road as part of the new City of Wylie Municipal Complex, the Recreation Center is a place where the entire family can benefit from health, fitness and fun. Get a jump on meeting your fitness goals... check out the new facility during one of our preview open houses January 22 – 30. Recreation Center staff will be on hand to answer questions, provide tours of the facility and register people for passes.

Physical, mental and social fun come in all forms at the new City of Wylie

Recreation Center. Whether taking a stroll around the track or literally climbing the walls members will enjoy a wide range of

literally climbing the walls members will enjoy a wide range of activities and amenities that rival many high-dollar gyms.

Do your workouts include cardiovascular training? You will be thrilled with the

January 22 10 am - 4 pm

Meet the Staff...Tour the Facility Register for Passes

January 23 12 pm - 4 pm

January 24 - 28 10 am - 8 pm

January 29 10 am - 4 pm

January 30

12 pm - 4 pm

Recreation Center Snapshot

- Climbing Wall
- Gym Area: Two Full Basketball Courts/
 3 Volleyball Courts
- Dividable Classroom
- Aerobics/Dance Studio
- Indoor Track

range and quantity

of machines featur-

ing PRECOR equipment.

The Recreation Center

boasts over 35 pieces of

cardio equipment ranging

from treadmills to elliptical

trainers to the interactive Trixter

X-Dream bikes (we are the only

city recreation center in Texas to

offer these). Many of the pieces are

Weight training is an important

even equipped with personal TV's.

component to any fitness program.

Members will find a complete circuit of

PRECOR C-Line machines, dumbbells,

a Smith Machine and the versatile

- Strength Equipment
- 36 Cardio Machines
- Drop-In Childcare

Functional Trainer. And folks who prefer breaking a sweat the old fashioned way will enjoy the indoor track that wraps around the entire second floor of the facility.

As you raise your heart rate and burn calories on the second level mezzanine you can overlook the action below. The gym area can be configured for two simultaneous full court basketball games, one championship court or three volleyball courts. The spacious area features solid oak flooring, scoreboards and bleachers.

If basketball is not your game and gym equipment is not your thing... the aerobics/dance studio more than likely has an offering to get you moving. Classes for all interests and ages will be on the schedule including,

Zumba, karate, ballroom dance, spin, pilates, yoga and much more. And don't forget about the climbing wall; adventure seekers will have a blast scaling this massive structure.

Of course, you don't have to break a sweat to have a great time. Innovative, creative classes for arts and crafts, painting and music are in the works. Planning your own fun? Rent one of the spacious rooms for events, celebrations and community happenings--there is even a full, restaurant quality, kitchen.

From public work sessions to surveys, residents have been the focus during the conception and planning of this amazing new facility. Annika Sacco, Recreational Programmer explains: "A lot of thought, effort, and detail has gone into making the recreation center not only visually appealing but also an up-to-date fully functioning facility that meets a variety of interests and needs."

Resident, non-resident and corporate passes are available with no contracts or long-term obligations, including a one-day option up to an annual pass. Lower rates apply for children ages 2-16 and seniors 55+. Families up to four can join for as little as \$325 a year. And if you purchase your annual pass before the February 1 opening, you will receive one month free.

Visit Wylietexas.gov for complete details including pass options and pricing, or stop by the Bart Peddicord Community Center located at 100 West Oak Street, 972-442-8119.

Carmen Powlen, Recreation Manager is eager for the February 1 opening. "I am excited that we will be able to enhance the quality of life for the citizens of Wylie and surrounding communities by providing positive recreation opportunities in a convenient and vibrant setting...complete with that "New Recreation Center smell."

Cardio Mezzanine

(Will feature 36 machines)

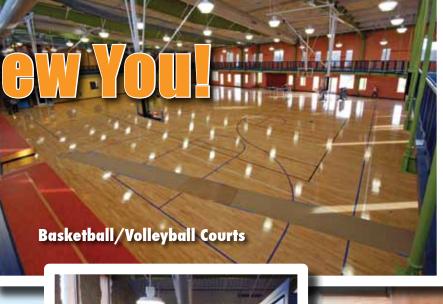


Indoor Walking/ Jogging Track

YylieRecreation
Center

Wylie Recreation Center 300 Country Club Drive 972-516-6360

More Details at www.WylieTexas.Gov





Aerobics & Dance Studio

Scale the 40 foot

wide by 28 foot tall

dimbing wall



Wylie's Mew Community Gathering Place

gathering place of choice for Wylie residents and visitors to our City "Between the Lakes". Designed to meet LEED (Leadership in Energy and

a cold blustery Saturday morning December 13,

2008, Wylie residents, City Council, City Staff and

civic leaders lined up across three mounds of soil

and simultaneously broke ground on Wylie's much anticipated

Municipal Complex. Two years later the unique, one-of-a-kind,

design featuring a combination of West Texas Permian Sea

Coral limestone, colored stainless steel Millennium Tile, and

hand-formed D'hanis clay bricks, rises out of the prairie along

"We are a part of an exciting time in Wylie, Texas as we take

the next step in our city's history," says Wylie Mayor Eric Hogue.

"Not only will the City Hall, Library and Recreation Center

enable us to provide an enhanced level of service to our citi-

zens, but the buildings and beautiful Wells Property will be a

community gathering place and destination point for people in

Designed by nationally known architectural firms Architexas

and Holzman Moss Bottino Architecture, the complex features a 46,000 square feet City Hall, 47,000 square feet Recreation Center and 44,000 square feet Library interconnected by the 800-foot long serpentine limestone wall rising in height from

12 to 44 feet. Two portals featuring car-sized concrete lintels, weighing more than 60,000 pounds each, welcome visitors into

Many of the materials are native to Texas including the lime-

stone and Mesquite in-grain flooring. Special consideration was

taken to ensure that the unique design compliments the beau-

tiful landscape and takes full advantage of the open meadow, sloping topography, trees and creek. The area is the perfect

location for future events and walking trails. And with one of

the largest back porches in Texas, it's sure to be the community

our immediate area and throughout the Metroplex."

spacious courtyards providing access to the buildings.

Country Club Road between FM 1378 and West Brown Street.

Environmental Design) Silver standards, the decision was made to include the green elements without the cost that is associated with the certification process. Green initiatives include a 30' x 100' solar array, paid for through grants from the State Energy Conservation Program; rainwater harvesting to be used for irrigation and toilet water; bathroom stall dividers made from 100% post consumer recycled plastic bottles; an open floor plan and windows that run the entire spine of the roof, reducing the dependence on artificial interior lights; large porches

and overhangs spanning the south face of the building that provide shade and reduce energy costs; drought tolerant landscaping; high efficiency lighting fixtures throughout the building; and a fire lane constructed of Pave Grow, a permeable growing medium that increases green space and offers a high load carrying capacity to accommodate the Wylie Fire Rescue's Quints.

The Municipal Complex is the ideal backdrop for several public art installations. Award winning artists Steve Gillman, and Po Shu Wang and Louise Bertelsen of Living Lenses were commissioned to design original works of art. The Gillman piece is prominently located in a grassy area in the main parking lot and consists of seven granite monoliths ranging in height from 13 to 18 feet, spaced over 385 feet in an arithmetical progression. The selected sculpture by Wang & Bertelsen is an interactive 13 foot wide by 7 foot tall sequence of hemispheres spiraling towards each other surrounding a complete sphere at the center. The two commissioned pieces, valued at \$290,000, are part of the City's program that dedicates 1% of project costs to Public Art.

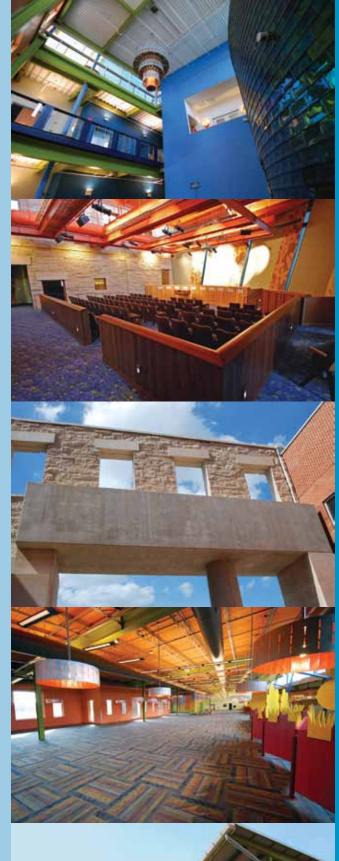
"The Gillman and Wang pieces are already generating a buzz throughout the Metroplex and beyond," said Councilwoman and Public Arts Advisory Board member Kathy Spillyards. "Between the original art work and the architecture, the new Civic Complex will quickly become a destination for art admirers, photographers and families."

City Hall opened for business on January 10 with the first City Council meeting taking place on January 11. The Recreation Center is scheduled to begin operations February 1 followed by the Rita and Truett Smith Public Library in mid-March. Wylie Fire Rescue will leave their temporary location and join the Police Department at the current City Hall location of 2000 Highway 78 North, forming Wylie's Public Safety building. Watch for more details on open houses, grand opening celebrations and the public art dedication ceremony. Go to WylieTexas.gov and click on the green "Sign Up" button to receive updates on activities and events.

The City Council and City staff look forward to serving you in the new City Hall, Library and Recreation Center. •

New Phone Numbers

City Hall Main Number 972-516-6000 **Building Inspection** 972-516-6420 City Manager 972-516-6010 972-516-6020 **City Secretary Code Enforcement** 972-516-6440 **Engineering** 972-516-6400 972-516-6120 Finance 972-516-6040 **Human Resources** Library (March) 972-516-6250 **Parks & Recreation** 972-516-6340 972-516-6320 **Planning** 972-516-6360 **Recreation Center Utility Billing** 972-516-6100





SACHSESHINES!

November 7, 2010, the City of Sachse held the Grand Opening for its new 14 acre Municipal Complex

located at the intersection of Sachse Road and Miles Road/Bryan Street. The date was significant because it was four years earlier, November 7, 2006, that voters approved the \$37.9 million bond package of which \$20.6 million was dedicated to building the complex.

"We are very pleased that we have been able to build the complex that the Citizen's of Sachse so richly deserve and to do it well under budget. This complex has become the catalyst for other opportunities for growth in the community and creates a community center which we have not had in the past. Since opening the complex we have seen a significant increase in resident involvement in activities

held at the campus. That's what these buildings were

public safety building, on two levels, and includes a

12,000 square foot, four-bay fire station, fire administration, police department, five-cell jail, police administration offices, and a stateof-the-art training room. On the other side of the complex is the two-story, 27,551 square foot city hall building that houses all other city departments except Public Works. The library received a face lift on the exterior to make it com-

been renovated and is now the new 7,500 square foot Laurie Schwenk Senior Center. Senior

Center Director, Dixie Dixon exclaims "The citizens of Sachse can be very proud of the whole complex, but our senior center is awesome!" The previous senior center was torn down to make room for the new 600 seat amphitheater. This amphitheater will host events that draw hundreds of participants to the new outdoor space. The complex is bordered by a walking trail, features two ponds and has ample parking for visitors to any of the buildings.

> Along with the new facility comes plenty of updated technology. A new phone system and website makeover makes both internal and external communication easier. New software allows for online water bill payments and invoice processing for citizens and employees. The Community Development department has implemented new software that allows them to issue and monitor building permits online. All conference rooms, training rooms, the court room and council chambers are equipped with the latest audio/ video equipment. Communication with our citizens is further enhanced by the addition of HD TV broadcasts of all public meetings, which started at the first of the year. Automated meeting agendas and minutes will soon allow us to be eco-friendly as we go paperless. With the new technology comes tightened

security throughout the complex. Electronic exterior doors and certain indoor areas are accessible only with a pass card.

The two city departments not housed at the municipal complex are Public Works and the Animal Shelter.

Senior Center which are next door to each other on Sachse Road. Fire Station No. 2 is located at the corner of Ranch Road and Maxwell Creek Road, providing services for citizens on the west side of Highway 78.

With the eastern extension of the President George Bush Tollway opening in December 2011, Sachse will have a new gateway into the

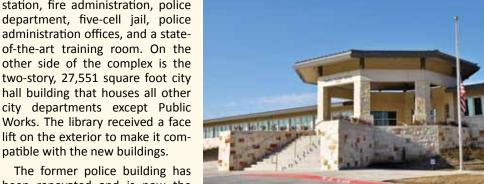
Laurie Schwenk



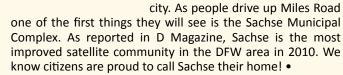
Sachse City Hall

designed for, use by the owners, the Citizens of Sachse" expressed City Manager Allen Barnes.

The Municipal Complex houses a 35,000 square foot



Sachse Public Safety







Expires 2/28/11

Expires 2/28/11

Photos by Denise Vise and Anne Hiney

Murphy Makes a Commitment to Describe the Commitment of the Commit

t's often said that parks are a fascinating and captivating reflection of a city, and the fate and destiny of those parks accurately reflects the priorities of the city's residents. The world's great cities are frequently characterized by their unflinching commitment to outdoor gathering spaces. These cities clearly demonstrate their commitment to parks, not only by publicly acknowledging the vital role that parks and public spaces play in the communal life of their communities, but they readily recognize the absolutely critical role that parks have in the private and personal lives of their citizens.

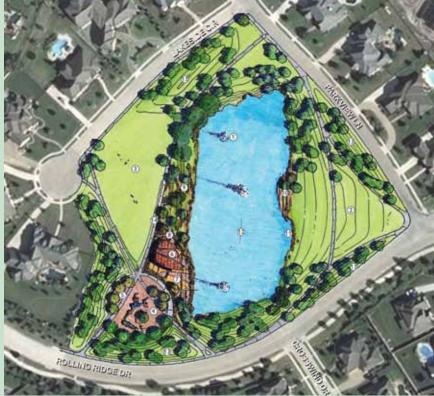
Based on that premise, there's growing evidence that the City of Murphy deserves to be listed among those communities that place a high value on parks and parkland. Murphy's citizens have clearly and collectively recognized the distinct importance of parks and parkland and have expressed that recognition in numerous fundamental ways. In fact, the city's commitment to a quality of life that includes an unquestioned embracing of nature and unspoiled natural beauty has taken shape in the form of a significant monetary commitment as well as a lively activism among city leaders, neighborhood associations, private citizens and special interest groups.

Kim Lenoir is the city's point person on parks. As Manager of Community Services, she and Keri Kirkwood, Community Recreation Coordinator, oversee the growing list of parks, park-based amenities and recreation programs for the

City of Murphy. Lenoir also has responsibility for a number of other citizen-facing departments, Public Works and Utilities, to name two, but with the assistance of the seven-member volunteer advisory Parks and Recreation Board, the growth in parks has been significant.

"Murphy's City Council, residents, business community and city administration have all joined hands in a determined effort to elevate parks to the same level of community importance as other civic assets," she said. "The community has stepped forward and said, in no uncertain terms, that they want a parks system that is world-class, and to validate that commitment, the citizens overwhelmingly adopted a capital bond program in 2008 that will ensure that their vision of parks that preserve and enhance the natural essence of the city will be built," said Lenoir.

City Manager James Fisher understands all too well that Murphy is serious about its parks and recreation program. "When a community speaks as loudly as Murphy did in 2008



Concept drawing for Liberty Ridge Park

by voting for \$7.5 million in parks and recreation bonds, the statement is clear and unequivocal. Parks are as essential and valuable as clean air and water, as culturally important as museums, and as necessary as good roads."

Fisher, himself an avid outdoorsman, points to the diminishing opportunities that today's families have for connecting with nature. The Bureau of Labor Statistics, for example, reports that today an average married couple works 26 percent longer each year than similar working couples did three decades ago. And, last year, an average of 21 million Americans lived vicariously as they tuned in every week to watch a group of other people live, work, and survive on a tropical island.

"Even a quick look at just a few statistics suggests that Americans are on the road to less free and unstructured time than originally projected for the



Murphy Municipal Complex includes open space for community use.

21st century and that our activities and preferences are becoming more sedentary, solitary, and passive," he said.

Clearly, Murphy's citizens want a change to that paradigm. Several Town Hall Meetings, that directly related to the future of the parks and recreation program, attracted large, and at times, boisterous crowds. Council members report that their in-boxes have swelled with passionate messages regarding parks and amenities, and neighborhood associations, community groups and citizen action assemblies have discussed and debated the topic formally and informally throughout the city.

Blessed with an abundant and well-preserved greenbelt, a natural creek that traverses the city and a populous that cherishes the beauty inherent in nature, the city has shown a rambunctious inclination for acquiring, preserving and enjoying well-maintained parks.

Lenoir says that the seeds sown as far back as 2003, when the original parks master plan was put in place, are rapidly bearing fruit – with the irreplaceable financial aid approved in the 2008 bond program. "Concept plans are being reviewed, decisions on amenities are being made and expectations are at an all time high," she said.

In 2010, the city completed and opened four neighborhood parks - Aviary, North Hill, Brentwood and Travis Farm - with group pavilions, playgrounds, concrete trails, basketball courts, and sand volleyball courts.

Now, a second wave of park construction is beginning with three major parks, Bunny Run/City Park, Liberty Ridge Park and the Municipal Complex Park, some of which are still searching for permanent names. All three are on the verge of starting major construction once the concept plans are accepted in

The thread that will tie together the entire system is a trail development that hugs Maxwell Creek, a serpentine stream that winds its way roughly north to south along the city's spine. The city also received trail/sidewalk grants from the federal "Safe Routes to School" program that will help link all the schools, parks and businesses to a web of hike and bike trails city-wide.

"The development of these three major parks and additional trails will form the backbone of our park system. We're extremely excited about what the future holds for our parks and recreation program," she said.

In 2011, the city begins the rehabilitation of the old Murphy School Building into the Murphy Community Center. This \$3.2 million project is estimated to open to the public in the spring of 2012. If parks do indeed reflect the hopes, dreams and desires of a community, then it's exceedingly clear that the citizens of Murphy have spoken, loudly. •

Concept drawings and photo provided by the City of Murphy.



Concept drawing for Bunny Run Park



Youngman once said, "The secret happy marriage remains a secret." The poet Ovid claims "Love is no assignment for cowards". As Valentine's Day fast approaches, many young dreamers' thoughts turn to love and romance. But what IS the key to a long term, loving marriage?

Bill & Jane Henry's relationship began with charm and romance. Jane and her sister worked in her father's full service Mobile station in Missouri. Bill would get a dollar's worth of

Bill & Jane Henry fuel in his big gas guzzler and drive around burning gas until he could return for another glimpse of the lovely Jane Donovan! Bill says he knew he'd marry Jane from the first time he saw her. However, his challenge was that Jane was so serious about her Catholic faith that she was researching religious orders. Ultimately, their love prevailed and they were engaged.

Communication is important in a relationship. As Bill went to war in Korea, they kept in touch through letters for the entire two years he was gone. Bill, ever the romantic,

would occasionally send \$1 to the local florist and have him deliver a single red rose to Jane!

They married in 1954, and raised six children together. They agree that a marriage must have commitment to each other and to God. Bill says they made a pact early in their marriage: if either one decided to leave the marriage, "they had to take all six kids with them!" Jane would advise young couples to "never let the sun go down on your anger," and to "hold hands when you fight."

It soon becomes clear that many things account for their loving marriage. Their faith in

God has been present from the earliest days of their relationship. Also, a sense of humor, a love of golf, family and travel -sometimes all at once! They recently traveled 5,000 miles to the Seattle area, stopping to play golf together virtually every morning on the way. Just a few years ago, they re-traced their honeymoon steps all the way to Mount Rushmore.

Their togetherness continues and soon they will take off again, this time to Fredericksburg to help a 'young' couple celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary! It should be fun: Bill has added a small tool

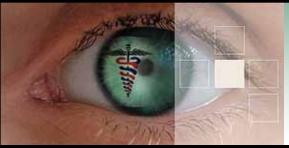
> box to their RV - to hold the golf clubs, of course!

Another key to a successful marriage might be listening to your friends.

Kris & Amy Segrest each had mutual friends who deemed them perfect for each other - both drove VW Bugs, both were very active in Fellowship of Christian Athletes and in their churches. But when you're from rival high schools, dating may not seem like such a great idea.

After weeks of cajoling, Kris relented and attended a Denison High School basketball game to meet Amy. His first view of his future wife was of Amy in full mascot mode as a Denison Yellow-

Jacket, with no hint of her under vards of vellow and black velour. Kris was waffling about meeting Amy until his good friend threw down the ultimate male challenge of "either you go meet her or I will!" At half-time, Amy took a break from the very hot, sweaty costume. As he walked towards



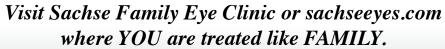
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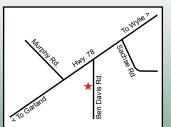


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her, Kris finally got a glimpse of her blonde hair amid the black and vellow fur and they began talking. They talked during the entire half time break - and they talked during the rest of the entire game. Denison lost that basketball game by one point, but Kris won!

Married since 1996, Kris & Amy credit their marital success to a spiritual component that has been there since their earliest dating days. This Christian faith and love is at the center of their lives. Kris advises that a person first become the best individual possible by deriving your contentment in the Lord. Don't look to another person to 'fill the gap', but instead let the Lord give you a sense of purpose in your life. Amy believes a couple's closeness is in direct proportion to their closeness to the Father.

On a personal level, as two "Type A" personalities, Kris appreciates Amy's unpretentiousness and that she always finds a reason to celebrate and rejoice. Amy loves his sense of humor and adventure. They believe that parents can give a great gift to their children by modeling a loving marriage, thus setting a good example for their futures.

Martin Luther stated, "There is no more lovely, friendly and charming relationship, communion or company than a good marriage." So, what makes a marriage a happy one? Communication? Romance? Respect? Faith? Humor? Love? I vote for all of the above! •

Photos provided by the Henrys & Segrests

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Happy New Year!

I love to set my goals for the new year; personal goals, business goals, family goals, etc. Dave and I sat down and came up with our home improvement goals for 2011. Some of the items are just for us (they add little or no value to resale) and some of them are for value.

In 2010 we knew that we really needed to focus on efficiency (several extremely high electric bills...cardiac arrest kinda bills). Our list included replacing our 14 year old heating & air system, blowing in additional insulation, replacing our front doors (double working doors that leaked like a sieve and were a security problem), adding a storm door to the back door and glass enclosure to the fireplace. The only thing we didn't get done was the additional insulation but we are already seeing a savings every month in the gas and electric bills. The front door added wonderful curb appeal, the fireplace enclosure is beautiful but adds no significant value, the storm door adds a little value and the value of the HVAC is debatable. Here is my thought on the HVAC;

- first we get some of the savings by doing it now rather than waiting until it dies (and is an emergency)
- second there is a tax incentive and
- third most buyers in today's market are specifically looking for energy efficiency, so while every house has HVAC ours is less of a failure risk and generates lower bills.

What does 2011 hold for us? This year we are looking at flooring for the majority of the house, then kitchen and bathroom renovations. First and foremost, we need new floors. The plan is nailed down hardwoods in the family room, formal dining and hallway, then carpet everywhere else. This will be a huge upgrade for our house.....yes, finally we will be rid of the builders green carpet!!!

What are your home improvement goals? We have huge goals but even just a little bit of paint will make the list less daunting when selling your home becomes a goal. Please think of me as a resource for contractor needs and questions of value and definitely call me when selling becomes your goal!





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JANUARY EVENTS

Thru May 15th - The Heard Museum is pleased to present BUGS, featuring more than twenty-five species of invertebrates including ants, scorpions, mantises and dozens of others from the world of itsy-bitsy, creepy-crawly and sluggy-buggy. BUGS is truly a "bug zoo" showcasing live arthropods both native and exotic. Staged in Mayan Ruins, this exhibit perfectly highlights the particular influence of bugs on human culture. Whether you love bugs or hate them, you'll find these creatures fascinating. Investigate what you have heard about the invertebrate world by exploring such creatures as giant beetles, checkered cockroaches and enormous stick insects. Being spineless has never been so coo!! Animal "Bug" care and docent opportunities are available. http://heardmuseum.org/attractions/exhibits/BUGS.asp.

Jan. 15th thru Feb. 18th - Registration for the 5th Annual Searching For A Star competition. For complete contest details & registration forms visit our website www. searchingforastar.org. Auditions held on Feb. 19th & 26th.

Jan. 22nd - Take care of your health, inside and out, at Baylor Medical Center at Garland's annual women's health event, For Women For Life.™ Receive free health screenings*, visit informational booths and attend health presentations by physicians and allied health professionals. Women attending the education presentations will be entered in a special door prize drawing. A complimentary buffet breakfast also will be provided. There is no charge for admission, so get your girlfriends together and register today! Atrium at the Granville Arts Center 300 N. 5th Street, Garland, TX 75040. Breakfast buffet 7:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. Screenings and booths open from 7:30 a.m. to Noon. Health presentations start at 8:30 a.m. Total Cholesterol and Glucose Screening, Blood Pressure Screening, Glaucoma Screening and much more! *For a more accurate reading, do not eat or drink anything after midnight before the cholesterol screening. You may take your regular medications as directed. Go online to learn more, and watch the event video at BaylorHealth.com/FWFL. RSVP by calling 1.800.4BAYLOR.

Jan. 29th - The Plano Symphony Orchestra presents: Scheherazade with special guest Jae Hyuck Cho, piano. Enjoy a night of exciting music, featuring Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov's Scheherazade, the Texas Premiere of Toussaint's "Popohl-Voh" and Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 3. The concert begins at 8:15 p.m. at St Andrew United Methodist Church at 5801 W. Plano Pkwy, Plano, TX 75093. Advanced tickets start at \$9; add \$2 at the door. To order, call the Plano Symphony Orchestra Ticket Office at 972-473-7262 or visit www.planosymphony.



Jan. 30th - The Family Symphony Sundays Series are fun, interactive concerts designed for children aged 4-12 and their families. "The Gone With the Winds" concert will introduce patrons to the flute, oboe, bassoon, clarinet, and other wind instruments, and will explain their function and importance to the orchestra in a fun and care-free way. Pre-concert activities include the Instrument Petting Zoo and arts and crafts. Concert begins at 3 p.m. with special Pre-Concert Lobby Activities at 2 p.m. at the The Courtyard Theatre, 1509 Avenue H, Plano, TX 75075. Tickets are \$7 to \$11. Add \$2 per ticket at the door. To order, purchase online at www.planosymphony.org or call the PSO Ticket Office at 972-473-7262.

Thru Jan. 31st - Encounter life-size animatronic, dinosaurs along the Heard Natural Science Museum & Wildlife Sanctuary's nature trails at the 5th annual Dinosaurs Live! Life-size Animatronic Dinosaurs at the Heard. The exhibit always gives families and friends a fun, educational activity to enjoy together. http://heardmuseum.org/attractions/exhibits/dinosaurs.asp.

FEBRUARY EVENTS

Feb. 12 - Plano Symphony Orchestra's 2011 Valentine Gala, La Dolce Vita, is an entertaining and beautiful event that will include silent and live auctions with beautiful hand crafted jewelry, fabulous vacation trips, sports memorabilia and much more. Phillip Pierceall of Swing City Auction Company will be the auctioneer who will engage everyone in lively auction games too. For a memorable Valentine's evening, join in the fun at the Hotel Intercontinental Dallas, 15201 Dallas Parkway in Addison, to enjoy social hour, dine and dance the night away in the Malachite Room with Limelight, an Emerald City band.

"The Valentine Gala is the signature fundraising event for your Plano Symphony. Only 30% of the Symphony's funding comes from concert ticket sales. We depend on this event and the generosity of sponsors, individuals, grants and the City of Plano to meet our operating costs," stated Executive Director Alice Hobbs. "The wonderful education and concert program the Symphony offers area schools is just one example of a program that depends on funding we get from events such as the Gala." To make reservations for the 2011 Valentine Gala, call the Plano Symphony Orchestra Ticket Office at 972-473-7262, or visit www.planosymphony.org.

Feb. 19th - WAG: Wylie Acting Group for Children will be holding auditions for "A Night with Judy Truesdell" from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Bart Peddicord Community Center. See our website for updates. www.wagforchildren.org

Feb. 19th & 26th - 5th Annual Searching For A Star competition auditions. For complete contest details & registration forms visit our website www.searchingforastar.org. Registration open Jan. 15th thru Feb. 18th.

Feb. 20th - The Family Symphony Sundays Series are fun, interactive concerts designed for children aged 4-12 and their families. "Brass-a-Palooza" will introduce the audience to the Brass section of the orchestra and will explain their function and importance to the orchestra in a fun and care-free way. Pre-concert activities include the Instrument Petting Zoo and arts and crafts. Concert begins at 3 p.m. with special Pre-Concert Lobby Activities at 2 p.m. at the The Courtyard Theatre, 1509 Avenue H, Plano, TX 75075. Tickets are \$7 to \$11. Add \$2 per ticket at the door. To order, purchase online at www.planosymphony.org or call the PSO Ticket Office at 972-473-7262.

Feb. 26th - City of Murphy electronics recycle day. Go to www. murphytx.org for more info.

WYLIE'S RITA AND TRUETT SMITH PUBLIC LIBRARY EVENTS

Check-Out Your New Online Library:

Patrons of the Smith Public Library are invited to use one of the following online (www. wylietexas.gov) resources to check-out and read books for free!

- · Download audio books using Myilibrary (Library Card required)
- · Read-a-long with books using Tumblereadables
- · Browse ebooks using the NetLibrary (Texshare login required

We're on the Move: January 2011 - March 2011

The Smith Public library is moving from Thomas Street to Country Club beginning January 2011 through March 2011. The Library Staff is forever grateful for the generosity of our beloved Rita & Truett Smith. We look forward to carrying on their traditions of courtesy and hospitality at the new location.

The online library is currently available for patrons with up-to-date library cards. Visit the library's kids, teens and adults pages (www.wylietexas.gov) to download, read-a-long or browse ebooks.

SACHSE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Located at 3815 Sachse Rd., Building C, Sachse 972-530-8966 Check online at www.cityofsachse.com for the Nov. & Dec. dates.

Play Mahjong: 1st & 3rd Wednesday from 1 - 5 p.m.

Story Time: Each Thursday at 11 a.m. Adult Book Club: 3rd Friday at 10 a.m. Paws & Read: 2nd Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

Friends of the Sachse Public Library:4th Tuesday at 7 p.m.

SACHSE SENIOR ACTIVITIES

Laurie Schwenk Senior Activity Center is located at 3815 Sachse Road, Suite B, on the corner of Sachse Rd. & Miles Rd. 972-495-6282.

Exercise: Most Mon., Wed. & Fri. mornings at 9 a.m. - Check Calendar!

Tai Chi: Tuesdays & Thursdays at 9 a.m.

Day Trips: Call the center to confirm dates & times

Feb. 2: Traditions at Prestonwood - Dallas

Feb. 9: Sam Moon's - Frisco

Health Care Seminars:

Dec. 29: Grapevine Mall

Jan. 26th & Feb. 23rd

For more details on outings and seminars please contact Dixie Dickson at the Senior Center at 972-495-6282.

Submit Your Event to the Calendar!

To submit your special event to the March/April community calendar send an e-mail to theconnection.anne@mac.com no later than February 15th. Please include contact name, date(s), time(s), location, a publishable phone number, e-mail and/or web site for information. Only events that are open to the public (no "members only" events) are eligible, as space permits. THANKS!

CHAMBER of COMMERCE EVENTS

WYLIE www.wyliechamber.org
Awards Banquet - Saturday, January 29th

Monthly Luncheons: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Lunch cost is \$12 if paid in advance, \$15 with reservation paying at door, \$20 without reservation. Online payment is available at the Chamber website.

January - No Luncheon

Feb. 22nd - Luncheon to be held at the new Wylie City Hall.

Every Wednesday Business Card Exchange: Network and promote your business from 8 - 9 a.m. Woodbridge Golf Course club house, 7400 Country Club Dr., Wylie.

SACHSE www.sachsechamber.com

972-496-1212

Awards Banquet - Coming Soon!

Monthly Luncheons: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Northplace Church, 2709 3rd Street, Sachse. \$15 for Members, \$20 for Non-members. Register & pay online.

Jan. 11th - Go to www.sachsechamber.com for more info. **Feb. 8th** - Go to www.sachsechamber.com for more info.

Community Coffee: The last Friday of the month, 8 - 9 a.m., at Sachse Christian Church, 5005 Ben Davis Road, Sachse.

MURPHY murphychamber.org 972-805-3749 Awards Banquet - Friday, January 28th

Monthly Luncheons: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Community Room at the Murphy City Hall Complex, 206 N. Murphy Road, Murphy. R.S.V.P. by 11:59 a.m. CST on the Friday before the luncheon to receive discounted prepayment rate of \$15 for members; \$20 for non-members. After Noon and at the door on Tuesday, the charge is \$20 for everyone. Go to www.murphytx.org to prepay or call 972-805-3749.

Feb. 15th - Program/Speaker TBA

The Christian Care
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generous donations
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Hey Kids! Do you like to write??

Write an original story telling us what you love about your city and submit it for a chance to be published in a future issue of The Connection Magazine. It can be about people, places, things, experiences - anything that you can think of. Be creative!

Your story may be up to 500 words in length. Email your story to the connection.anne@mac.com.

Please include your name, a parent's name, and your home phone number so we can reach you to let you know if your story is chosen to be published. Don't forget to tell your parents that you are sending a story to us!

Deadline for submissions is Feb. 15, 2011.

The Connection Magazine reserves the right not to publish any story that our editorial staff considers offensive or inappropriate. Stories will be selected by The Connection Magazine Editorial Board.





Chocolate is for Lovers

by Kathleen Noble

hocolate has been a long time favorite for Valentine's Day and has always been associated with passion,

True chocolate lovers are passionate for their sweet treats but does chocolate create passion?

The guestion of whether chocolate is an aphrodisiac is an age old one. If history is to be believed, it is stated that the Aztec's believed chocolate was a source of spiritual wisdom, incredible energy and that it elevated sexual power.

The Spaniards documented observing Montezuma consuming copious amounts of cocoa prior to visiting his many harems, Casanova preferred chocolate to champagne, and Spanish explorer Hernando Cortes reported to Carlos I of Spain that chocolate was a divine drink that built up resistance and fought fatigue. "A cup of this precious drink enables a man to walk for a whole day without food," Cortes said.

Compounds in chocolate increases the release of mood affecting chemicals including serotonin, endorphins and phenylethylamine, similar to those released during exercise or romance. The phenylethylamine, a natural mood elevator, increases the heartbeat and brings on feelings of well-being. Plenylethylamine is the same chemical our brain produces when we feel happy or "in love."

Europeans encountering chocolate for the first time in the early 1600s believed the dark sweet confection aided digestion, eased childbirth pain, induced sleep and enhanced libido.

In more modern times, medical professionals believe the folklore surrounding the medicinal qualities of chocolate were more likely, pure wives tales. For awhile chocolate even developed a bit of a bad reputation for causing acne and contributing to tooth decay. According to a recent study by Japan's Osaka University, cacao contains antibacterial agents that actually fight tooth decay. Studies performed by the Pennsylvania School of Medicine and the U.S. Naval Academy also confirms that eating chocolate makes no difference in the condition of the skin.

Although scientists are still trying to understand the more

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than 300 chemicals in chocolate, there may be some beneficial and healthy side effects to eating chocolate. Chocolate contains antioxidants and stearic acid, which

may increase levels of HDL "good" cholesterol.

> Not all chocolate is good however. For instance. a single bar of dark chocolate contains more than twice the antioxidants and is less fattening than the same quantity of milk chocolate. Some dark chocolate has as much as 99 percent cocoa while milk chocolate ranges at about

30-40 percent while white chocolate contains no cocoa at all. Milk chocolate is much higher in unhealthy saturated fat and calories simply because it contains milk and fewer cocoa solids per ounce.

It takes approximately four cocoa seeds to produce a single ounce of milk chocolate while it takes 12 seeds for the same quantity of dark chocolate.

Nothing melts a heart like Valentine's Day chocolates.

Whether your sweetheart prefers milk or dark chocolates, nutty, creamy or the truffle variety, chocolate Valentine's Day confections send a message of love.

And while Valentine's Day chocolates may or may not offer long lasting health benefits, the loving sentiment and memory of the giver's thoughtfulness will. •

Chocolate Bath Salts

These bath salts are proven to boost blood flow to the skin and the sweet scent of chocolate is said to soothe and comfort.

- 6 cups of Epsom Salt
- 2 tablespoons cocoa powder
- 1/2 teaspoon of vanilla extract

Combine ingredients and spread out on a cookie sheet lined with paper towel. Air dry and pour into sealable jar.

Dissolve 3 to 4 tablespoons into a warm bath.

Keeps indefinitely!

Effective treatment for pain and weakness that might be a NEUROPATHY Meet Devanshi Gupta, M.D. Board Certified in Neurology, Neurophysiology, and Electrodiagnostic Medicine Named One of "America's Top Physicians*" for 2009 and 2010 Have you experienced tingling and numbness, a burning sensation in your hands or feet, or sharp pain in parts of your body with or without weakness? It could be a sign of nerve damage, also called neuropathy. Millions of Americans suffer from nerve pain, but many people are not properly diagnosed or treated. Many common painful conditions could actually be underlying neuropathies, which are best treated as early as possible for long term relief. Devanshi Gupta, M.D., of Dallas Neurological Associates offers expertise in neuropathy management. Call today to schedule an appointment. Dr. Devanshi Gupta completed her neurology residency and served as Chief Resident at the University of Tennessee in Memphis. She also completed a fellowship in clinical (972) 783-8900 Devanshi Gupta, M.D. neurophysiology and neuromuscular disease and researches these diseases Dallas Neurological Associa 375 Municipal Dr., Ste. 222 actively, Prior to starting her practice in Richardson, Dr. Gupta worked at Northwest Mississippi Regional Richardson, TX 75080



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Plano Children's Medical Clinic is Coming to Wylie

by Lori Villarreal

lano Children's Medical Clinic (PCMC) has been treating an increasing number of children from Wylie and the surrounding area. In the past year the East Plano clinic reported 16,000 visits – 31% of those from patients living in the 75098 and neighboring zip codes.

Recognizing the need to serve families close to where they live, Susan Shuler, Executive Director of PCMC, applied for and was awarded a \$90,000 grant from the Medical Center of Plano. The award provides funding for PCMC to bring a satellite of the East Plano clinic to Wylie. The grant underwrites the rented lease and partial utilities for two years. Plans to open the satellite location are set for this coming summer.

PCMC provides sick and well child care for infants to 18 year olds residing in Collin County who do not have private health insurance. Patients may be on Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

Development Director, Jenna Lawson, shared, "Residents living in outlying areas site transportation and the cost of gas



bigStock Photo



as obstacles to seeking medical care for their children." When an illness is slow to be diagnosed and treated it can progress, becoming more serious, resulting in more expensive treatment or worse. Also, slow treatment increases absenteeism. Lawson reminds, "The faster a child returns to school the less negative the impact on their academic success." It's also important to remember the sooner a child returns to school the quicker the parent can return to work.

PCMC's motive for applying for the grant was to increase access to quality health care for children in the Wylie and surrounding areas. With Wylie Independent School District reporting 29% of the enrolled students participating in the free or reduced cost lunch program there is clearly a case for free or reduced cost health care for children in the area. School nurses are already anticipating the support they can both offer to, and receive from, a nearby clinic.

As a satellite clinic, the Wylie location will benefit from the 19 years of experience the East Plano clinic offers. Like the

"The faster a child returns to school the less negative the impact on their academic success."

Plano location, the Wylie clinic will operate as a not-for-profit. Financial support from the community will be required to sustain and eventually grow the clinic's services to meet the increasing demand of the growing population.

Fortunately, the PCMC staff are already talking to civic groups, churches, and community leaders. The Wylie Evening Lion's Club recently confirmed a gift of \$1,000 to fund a much needed height/weight scale. The Wylie Rotary Club has pledged support as have a number of individuals who are making reoccurring monthly financial contributions.

Aside from financial support, the clinic can use donations to support wellness and safety for their patients. Items listed on www.plano-cmc.org include car seats, diaper bags, baby supplies, bar soap, blankets, and children's clothing. As the staff discovers the needs families are experiencing, donated items can be distributed to offer support for patients and their families.

The new Children's Clinic coming to Wylie offers another opportunity for residents to support their neighbors while qualified and caring professionals provide the competent care we desire and the children deserve. •





www.TeamWaterDamage.com







Character Education

by Susan Dacus



Friends of Rachel-Wylie High School receives the Rachel's Challenge School of the Year award in May 2008. The award was presented by Rachel's father, Darrell Scott (right) to WHS Principal Gary Brown (left) and former WHS Asst. Principal Virdie Montgomery (center).

elping others, being honest, doing your best, being trust-worthy, carrying the responsibility of school assignments and respecting the people around you – these and other attributes are the goals of the character education program in the Wylie Independent School District. The philosophy of the district is that developing students of high character is a part of producing well educated young people. Placing focus on character from elementary through high school can also deter bullying, an issue of national prominence during the past several years.

Responsibility, Respect, Caring, Trustworthiness, Fairness And Citizenship

Although many school districts focus on anti-bullying tactics, the WISD program, instead, encourages positive behavior to stop bullying before it starts. Students learn the values of helping each other, feeling compassion, being tolerant of differences, building a good reputation and playing by the rules. When they feel confident and good about themselves, students are less likely to bully others or to give in to the pressures of a bully. Students who observe a bully are more likely to seek adult intervention.

All 19 WISD campuses participate in the two primary activities of the character program, Character Counts! And Rachel's Challenge.

Character Counts! is centered on the basic values of the "Six Pillars of Character." A specific trait is designated for each of the six week grading periods. Activities on campus during that six weeks will emphasize student learning about the specific trait and how students can display it in their daily lives. These six traits include responsibility, respect, caring, trustworthiness, fairness and citizenship.

Rachel's Challenge is the second prong of the WISD's character education program. It has been in the district since 2006, and in 2008 Wylie High School was named as the Rachel's Challenge School of the Year. The program has grown to all 19 campuses, and this fall Whitt Elementary and McMillan Junior High have been featured on WFAA, Channel 8 among other north Texas schools for their Rachel's Challenge activities and events.

The nationwide Rachel's Challenge initiative was inspired by Rachel Scott, the first student killed in the 1999 Columbine High School massacre. Eleven other students would die before the shooting ended. Rachel's parents and friends began Rachel's Challenge because of writing found in her journals after her death. She wanted to affect the world in a positive way and



The student body at Whitt documented its support of Rachel's Challenge by taking this photo and signing a banner.

had feelings that in her life she would touch others. She wanted to start a chain reaction of kindness and compassion; Rachel's Challenge emphasizes the power of one person to bring about massive change through acts of kindness. •

Photos provided by Wylie ISD





Exercise Your Way to a Healthy Life

By Stephen Kim, MI

o doubt, the new year is when many of us get re-motivated about exercise. So what's the best way to get started if you're just getting back into the routine? Depending on your medical health conditions and level of fitness, most exercise programs should be a gradual process. For example, if you're a healthy individual who has been inactive for about a year, your goal should be to perform high-calorie burning workouts. But don't just jump into it. Start out with gradual, moderate exercise and work your way up to a more vigorous routine.

A moderate level of activity noticeably increases your heart rate and breathing rate. You may sweat, but you're still able to carry on a conversation. Moderate exercise includes brisk walking, easy jogging, using an elliptical trainer, swimming, dancing, or cycling.

Vigorous activity is when your heart rate is substantially increased and you're likely to be sweating. You are breathing rapidly and only able to speak in short phrases. Running, cycling, or swimming at an intense level fall into this category.

The best form of exercise would be a healthy balance of both cardio and weight training. Thirty minutes of exercise five times a week is the recommended

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Dr. Kim's Tips for Beginners

- 1. Make time to exercise and plan it in your weekly schedule.
- 2. Set reasonable expectations for yourself so you don't burn out.
- 3. Keep exercise fun by changing up your routine often.
- 4. Track your progress.
- 5. Celebrate your success!

goal. If you have a medical condition, it's extremely important to consult a physician before starting an exercise routine. Even healthy individuals need to be careful – doing too much may cause burnout or injury.

Exercise is the key to a healthy lifestyle. Besides helping you lose weight and

increase your strength, it's a great way to boost your energy, lower your blood pressure, improve cholesterol levels, and manage stress. Exercise also reduces the risk of cancer and heart disease. If you stick to it, you'll see that working out works wonders. •

Stephen Kim, MD, is an independently practicing physician at Methodist First Aid Family Care in Wylie, which offers both routine care and prompt medical treatment for minor emergencies. Dr. Kim attended

medical school at St. George's University School of Medicine. He completed the Methodist Dallas Family Practice Residency Program and is board certified in family medicine. To schedule an appointment with Dr. Kim, call 972-941-8700. Visit www.FirstAid-FamilyCare.com for more information.



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Scholarships Make A Difference In Education

by Heather Darrow of Collin College

rowing up in the country, Dr. Myrtle Hightower was always taught to treasure having a quality education.

To no surprise, the Collin College developmental education professor reiterates this message – instilled in her by her parents – to college and high school students seemingly every day.

This way of life is also why Dr. Hightower, along with her late husband, John, created the Hightower Foundation scholarship and is a devoted donor to the Collin College Foundation.

"My parents always said, 'if you can get an education, get one,' " Hightower said. "We decided to give scholarships to deserving students because this was just one of the ways we were reared by our parents.

"It doesn't matter how much money you have in the bank, what kind of car you drive or what type of house you live in but it does matter what kind of service you give to people. I applaud anyone who provides scholarships. Providing scholarships make me feel good and I think they are worthwhile."

Especially when students like Regina Lyons, Hightower adds, benefits from them. Lyons is the fall 2010 Hightower Foundation scholarship recipient.

"Regina is a Collin College student deserving of everything she gets," Hightower continued. "She is loyal, honest and has good character. She is the epitome of the student you seek out and help."

A non-traditional student, Lyons, who plans to transfer to Texas A&M University-Commerce, is studying to become certified to teach early childhood through sixth grade.

And if not for donors like Dr. Hightower, Lyons knows she would not be in a position to earn an education.

"Dr. Hightower's donation of this scholarship shows that there are caring, generous and charitable people who took the time to read my application and letter and related to it in some way

to say, 'this is the person who I'm choosing to represent my name and scholarship,' " Lyons said. "This gives me confidence and makes me want to keep going."

It also motivates Lyons to want to help students like her one day.

According to Lyons, when she earns her degree and is in a position to help, she has given Dr. Hightower her word that she will also become a donor because she knows scholarships do make a difference.

"A college education is the gateway to a better life, but it is simply out of reach for too many people," said Brenda Goodell, chair, Collin College Board of Trustees. "Donors have the power to put scholarships in the hands of students who will make a difference in our community when they earn their college degree and enter the professional or technical work force."

Thus, given the constant need for scholarships and financial assistance, which has climbed significantly over the years, there can never be too many donors.

This past fall almost 700 qualifying scholarship applications were received and processed by the Collin College Foundation. However, only 315 students were awarded assistance.

Meanwhile, more than 500 students applied for scholarships for this spring semester, and only 40 will be awarded.

"Our rapidly changing world requires that people be able to think critically, creatively and effectively," said Cary A. Israel, Collin College president. "Not only can a college education meet community needs, but a college degree

or certificate also leads to higher individual earning power and, ultimately, an economically vibrant community. That is why it is so important to allow those who want to earn a college education to be financially able to do so. However, this past Fall 2010, the college was only able to award 315 scholarships out of 672 qualified applicants because the need surpassed our scholarship resources. Clearly, the college needs help from generous donors who can provide the much-needed scholarships for deserving students."

If anyone is interested in supporting scholarships, an event is forthcoming in 2011: Collin Cabaret will be held on Friday, Feb. 25 at the Charles W. Eisemann Center in Richardson. For details, call Mary Frazier at 972.599.3143. ●



Regina Lyons (standing), a Collin College student, credits Dr. Myrtle Hightower, a Collin College developmental education professor, for providing her with the confidence to continue her education. Lyons received a scholarship from the Hightower Foundation in the fall 2010 semester.



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Get Involved With Our Local Organizations

Wylie Christian Care Center helps those who are down on their luck by providing temporary help with food, clothes, rent, utilities, school supplies and household items. The Center receives no government assistance, is run by volunteer workers and is supported by local churches, businesses, schools, civic organizations and individuals. It's always in need of canned meats, peanut butter, jelly, cereal, fruit and tomato products, and monetary donations. To donate or volunteer, contact the Christian Care Center at 972-442-4341.

Dyslexia Advocates of Wylie is a Parent Support Group for parents of dyslexic children. Go to www.dyslexiaadvocatesofwylie.com for more info.

Exchange Club of Murphy is a volunteer service organization for people who want to serve their community, develop leadership skills and enjoy new friendships. Programs include: Child Abuse Prevention, Americanism, Community Service and Youth Activities. We meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month from noon to 1 p.m. at Country Burger, 104 N. Murphy Rd., Ste. 210, Murphy, TX 75094. Contact: Cheryl Collins at cheryl@txwillett.net or 469-463-6950.

Friends of the Sachse Library meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Sachse Library, 3815 Sachse Road. Contact the Sachse Public Library for more details at 972-530-8966

Garland Quilt Guild meets the first Tuesday of each month at First Presbyterian Church, 930 West Avenue B, in Garland at 7 p.m. (except December) Located at the corner of 9th Street and Avenue B in Garland. For more info visit www. garlandquiltguild.com.

Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries, Inc. presents a Free Genealogy Seminar on the 3rd Saturday of each month from 10:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at the W.O. Haggard Library Program Room, 2501 Coit Road, Plano. Public is welcome. For info visit www.GenealogyFriends.org, e-mail GenFriends@GenealogyFriends.org, or call Jean Funk at 972-618-1580.



In-Sync Exotics Wildlife Rescue & Educational Center is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the rescue of exotic felines. Visit www.insyncexotics.com for more info. Open Saturdays and Sundays, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. 972-442-6888.

Junior League of Richardson meets on the 2nd Wednesday at 7p.m. at Methodist Richardson Hospital. For more info. go to www.ilrtx.com or call 972-644-5979.

MOMS Club of Murphy/Sachse is a non-profit support group for stay-athome moms and their children. Activities include monthly meetings with quest speakers, play groups, park days, MOMS Night Out, field trips and more. We participate in service projects to benefit children in the community. Please visit murphysachsemomsclub.webs.

Moms & More all caretakers, whether you are a Mom, Dad, Aunt, Uncle, Grandparent or Nanny are welcome. We accept members from Wylie and the surrounding communities and have many activities for children and their caretakers. We meet the 1st Thursday of the month. Contact us at Diva@wyliemomsandmore.org or for more info. go

MOPS of Sachse/Wylie/Murphy Mothers of Preschoolers meet at Park Lake Church at 3702 Sachse Road in Sachse on the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays (Sept. -May) from 9 - 11:30 a.m. Moms with children from birth through kindergarten are invited. Childcare is included with semester MOPS dues. To RSVP or for more info. call Park Lake Church at 972-414-0600, e-mail mops@parklakechurch.com, or visit www.mops.org.

Sachse Historical Society meets the 3rd Saturday of the month, 9:30 a.m., Sachse Historical Museum, 3033 6th Street. Museum is open for visitors every Tuesday from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. and by appointment for visitors and tours, 972-495-1231. Visit www. sachsehistoricalsociety.org for more info.

Sachse Lion's Club meets the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at Steak Kountry, 7010 Highway 78 in Sachse. Our efforts benefit several organizations including the Blind Leader Dog program and Air Challenge, a program that takes disabled children for airplane rides. They also support the Vision Impaired Olympics summer camp for kids and assist with building Habitat for Humanity homes.

Sachse Pet Pals volunteer organization works with Sachse Animal Control to enhance adoption rates and help with pet medical expenses on a financial need basis. Contact Peggy Strong at 972-495-9645 for more info.

Trinity Trail Preservation Association (TTPA) is an all-volunteer equestrian organization that maintains the 9 mile long trail on the Corps of Engineers land along Lavon Lake. TTPA networks with other trail riders, sponsors trail rides and cookouts, hosts quarterly meetings with speakers on horse-related issues, holds family type activities such as scavenger hunts on horseback, fun poker rides and educational clinics. For info. call Pat Monson 214-213-1940, www.trinitytrailriders.org.

Wylie Friends of the Library meets the 3rd Thursday of each month, 6 p.m. at the Rita and Truett Smith Public Library, 800 Thomas, in the Bluebonnet Room, 972-442-7566.

Wvlie Lions Club meets the 2nd & 4th Thursdays of the month at American National Bank in Wylie at noon. Anyone interested in becoming a Lion is welcome to join the group for lunch. Call Bill Bonney for more info. at 214-769-5314.

Wylie Evening Lions Club meets the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of the month at American National Bank in Wylie at 7 p.m. Call Carl Bodine at 469-951-4344 for info.

Wylie Rotary Club meets weekly on Thursday at 12 noon at the Woodbridge Country Club. Contact Bryan Brokaw: bryan.brokaw@edwardjones.

Wvlie Wisecrackers is a Toastmasters club serving Wylie, Sachse, Murphy, and Lavon, meets every Wednesday from 6:45 p.m. - 8 p.m. at American National Bank in Wylie: 301 S. Hwy. 78. All are welcome. Members practice effective public speaking techniques, gain valuable leadership experience, and, thus, gain personal confidence. Contact Jodi Mejia at jodi.mejia@gmail.com. www.wylie.freetoasthost.com.

Wylie Women's League Meets the 1st Thursday of each month. Contact Stacey Daniel at 469-964-7425 or daniel21@verizon.net for more info. •

If your organization has info. on this list that has changed please send an email with corrections to the connection.anne@mac.com. Thank you!



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Countdown to Retirement

Critical areas to address before you retire

provided by Jal Dennis Group

ave you begun your countdown to retirement? If so, a financial advisor can help you make a successful transition to the next stage of your financial life. The following points are some critical areas to address with your advisor a few years before you expect to retire.

- Determine what retirement will cost. Many people enter retirement without the slightest clue as to what they want to do with their time or whether they have enough money to do it. Will you continue to work part time? Travel? Maintain a second residence? Make improvements to your existing home? Be sure you plan how you'll spend your time because that decision will have a direct impact on how much retirement will cost you.
- Assess your sources of retirement income. Estimate the income and savings you can rely on during retirement. How much will you receive from Social Security, a company pension, a 401(k) plan, or other employeesponsored retirement accounts? Contact the Social Security Administration at www.ssa.gov and/or your employer's retirement benefits representatives to obtain a report listing the estimated income from these sources. In addition, you'll want to confirm amounts in other accounts. Do you have retirement assets accumulating in an IRA or a taxable investment account? If your anticipated income does not equal or exceed your projected expenses, develop a plan to bring these two into alignment.
- Arrive at a spending limit. Once you have a handle on expected income and expenses, calculate how much you can withdraw from your accounts each year without spending down your principal. Your advisor can create various withdrawal scenarios based on forecasted investment returns, inflation expectations and other practical financial planning considerations.

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Accounting for Uncertainty

In the past, calculating annual withdrawal amounts was done by means of simple spreadsheet analysis. A planner would use historical performance averages to project future portfolio values and automatic calculations for variables such as inflation and life expectancy. The problem with such an approach is that the lack of flexibility in the calculations makes it difficult to account for year-by-year variations in outcomes or any unexpected changes in an individual's life or lifestyle that can affect underlying assumptions.

Fast forward to the present where sophisticated computer forecasting models, such as the Monte Carlo simulation, have become the preferred tools for dealing with the uncertainty around retirement planning. When used in investment decision making, a Monte Carlo simulation forecasts how a portfolio is likely to perform under thousands of possible scenarios based on a combination of parameters such as life expectancy, interest rates, equity returns and inflation. The simulation is typically modeled around a specific problem (e.g., How much can I accumulate for retirement?). Results are recorded and ordered according to which scenario is most likely to meet the investor's retirement goals.

With more attention being paid to retirement planning, forecasting tools based on the Monte Carlo simulation have enjoyed a renewed popularity in investment analysis. In an uncertain world, such tools can help provide peace of mind to investors by addressing some of the toughest retirement planning challenges. But remember, any forecasting tool, no matter how sophisticated, cannot predict the future. What's more, forecasts are hypothetical, do not reflect actual investment results and are not guarantees of future performance. For this reason, you should think of forecasts as a starting point for discussion with your advisor, not as your ultimate planning solution. •

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