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DEBORAH L. MATERN, PC Attorney at law

November/December 2010

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BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

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Dr. Rivers

Dr. Kristina Rivers is excited to be in Wylie, and looks forward to providing excellent, personal, and affordable dental care to the Wylie community for many years to come. "I've already met so many amazing people here," says Dr. Rivers. "I feel really blessed to provide care to such a phenomenal community. Wylie is a truly special place."

When she is away from work, Dr. Rivers likes to be outdoors or enjoying any form of the arts including plays, live music, ballet, and visual artistry.

www.mywyliedentist.com

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PROFILE OF SUCCESS

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As turkey day approaches, it is fitting that we present the November/December issue with a theme of "thanks" and "giving" of a different nature. That would be our "thanks" and gratitude to the volunteers who are "giving" of their time to help those in our community through charitable causes and service groups.

Our holiday issue will spotlight the volunteers and volunteer groups that make this area unique. From the Christian Care Center in Wylie, the local Lions Clubs, Rotarians and Exchange Club members, to Reach for a Star, CASA and Friends of the Library in Wylie, we hope to honor those that lend a hand to residents (and big cats) in need.

We also spotlight these organizations to give you an avenue to add your sweat equity and time to make a difference where you live. Many of these groups give directly back to the people who matter most – your friends and neighbors – and they are always in need of help.

Our cover girl this issue, Ms. Debra Matern – Attorney at Law (and outstanding local volunteer) provides for any legal need you may have, while Dr. Kristina Rivers at Westgate Dental, our Business Spotlight this issue, will keep you smiling through the Holiday's.

This issue truly reflects the heart of the people living in the area and we hope you are as touched by the work they do and the time they give to the community as we are. We hope to include you in the story next year.

To you and yours, have a blessed and rewarding Holiday season.

Thank you for reading.

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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The Connection is published bimonthly by the Wylie Chamber of Commerce. The Connection is mailed free of charge to over 30,000 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 advertisements.



Just for fun, find the butterfly! Last issue it was hidden in the Sachse Fall Fest logo on page 21.

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!





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



The Secret Stealer of Sight: Glaucoma



Glaucoma is a condition that causes damage to the optic nerve and results in permanent loss of vision. There are many types of glaucoma, and many factors influence the risk of developing glaucoma including age, family history, race, intraocular pressure, corneal thickness, optic nerve appearance and peripheral vision. Glaucoma has no symptoms until the disease is well advanced and significant vision loss has occurred. Vision loss from glaucoma is irreversible and in most cases

starts in the periphery and slowly encroaches on central vision. End stage vision loss from glaucoma is often described as tunnel vision. For this reason Wylie Eye Center has the most advanced technology to diagnose and treat glaucoma at its earliest stage. Although there is no current cure for glaucoma, treatment with prescription drops can decrease the pressure in the eye and preserve vision. We follow those with glaucoma, or at risk for developing glaucoma, closely to assure treatment is affective and the condition is not progressing.

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. Saturday exams are available by appointment.



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Beth Anderson, OD

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Holiday Extreme Make-Over

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Get a head start on using your Flex Spending before it is lost. Introducing Designer lines Gucci and Juicy Couture! Join us for our Gucci and Juicy Couture opening day. Stop in to see the entire Gucci Collection on Saturday, November 20th, 2010 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and enjoy treats from Say it With Sugar. Door prizes drawn every 30 minutes with a grand prize winner at 1 p.m..



(972)429-9090 www.TSO.com [W]e have gifts differing according to the undeserved kindness given to us..." Romans 12:6" [I]n proportion as each one has received a gift, use it..." 1 Peter 4:10

THE LAW OFFICE OF DEBORAH L. MATERN, PC

HE LAW OFFICE OF DEBORAH L. MATERN, P.C. is a general law practice. It is my goal to lessen the pain which typically accompanies life's most difficult legal situations. My primary area of practice is Family Law. The services I provide for my clients include: divorce, child support, visitation, modification and enforcement of child support and visitation orders, as well as estate planning services like wills, powers of attorney, advance directives (living wills), and probate. Additional areas of service include criminal defense and business services, such as the creation of Corporations and LLCs. My commitment to anyone seeking my expertise is always to assist you in finding the help you need, whether it is with me personally, or within my network of trusted and respected colleagues.

I am a proud member of the State Bar of Texas, the Collin County Bar Association, and the College of the State Bar of Texas, as well as The International Legal Fraternity of Phi Delta Phi. Most importantly, I am an active member of my community, my "little" town, the best city in the world, the City of Wylie, Texas. I feel a true connection with the citizens of Wylie, as well as the close knit surrounding areas. While it is always my hope that you will not need me, if the need arises, I hope to be your personal resource and your attorney. By the end of my services, I also hope to be your friend.

This issue of "The Connection" is about volunteerism. As the incoming Chair of the Wylie Chamber Board of Directors, I want to share with you my strong feelings about service, about my passionate desire to give back to my community, to our community. In fact, my business started, if only as an idea or dream, back in the early 90s, as a result of a local volunteer service organization's sign, right here in Wylie. I will start from the beginning. Here is how it happened...

I grew up in Murphy, a traditional family, Mom, Dad and one younger sister. My father, now a retired CPA, worked for an

insurance company and also built his own firm during my grade school years. Mom worked outside the home for a video production company from about 5th grade on. I grew up in a really good home, with really good parents (Thank you Mom and Dad for raising me right, even though it took me several tries to get it right)!

My parents gave me my first glimpse of active community involvement and volunteer service. Some of my favorite childhood memories are of projects and events that my parents put on with the Jaycees. Whether it was a big carnival or the spooky haunted house or something as simple as stuffing envelopes for the League of Women Voters, I saw my parents having fun and meeting really good people. What I was too young to see at the time, however, was that they were giving back to our community. They showed me how to be of service. Decades later, they both still actively serve their community. My Mom has served on the Lucas Parks and Open Space Board, the Board of the Trinity Trail, and is currently on the board of Grace Lake Ministries. My Dad is the treasurer for the Southwest Area of Turners.

My undergraduate decree is from Texas A&M University -WHOOP! I graduated with a bachelor of science in political science, I call it my BS in BS. I bought a house and moved to Wylie. Back in the early 90s Wylie was a little town and I remember the population sign on the edge of town reading about 8500 people. Wylie was truly a bedroom community for me; I did not even know my neighbors. I still live in that same home today in the unincorporated part of Wylie, but now I know my neighbors, thanks to service.

In the 90s I worked in the insurance industry, like my Dad. Working in the Dallas area meant quite a drive to and from work. Over the next decade, I drove to and from jobs which took anywhere from 45 - 75 minutes each way. Each day as I

drove out of town, in the dark, I passed the "Meals-on-Wheels" truck, and each day I would think, "some day maybe I can volunteer; but certainly not while I'm working out of town."

As I approached my tenth year living in Wylie, and as I dropped my son off at daycare at 6:30 a.m. and picked him up again at 6:30 p.m., I realized something had to change. If I continued on the same path, daycare would be raising my son, and I wanted something different. It was then that I made the decision to go to law school and start a practice in my "little" town.

The process took me to Fort Worth for three years. I rented my house, saying, "I'll be back soon; Wylie is my home." Upon my return, I found the same "Mealson-Wheels" truck, reminding me of my goal. I have been happily practicing law here in my "little" town since passing the bar in 2003.

During law school, I served on the Texas Wesleyan Law Review, and later the Law Review Board of Directors. Being a single mom, I thought, "what do I have to offer," and "how can I do this time-consuming, difficult job, attend and excel in law school, and most importantly, be a good mom." The answer, well it all just fell into place. Busy people get things done. My son benefited from seeing me study hard, learn, and still be of service. He became the unofficial law review mascot; we made it fun and met really good people.

During my adult life, I have had the privilege to serve in various service organizations, early on, and currently, as a mentor to troubled women and girls. Seeing the light come on in the eyes of a lost soul is an amazing and awesome reward. I also serve on the regional service office board for that organization; helping guide and direct that organizations worthwhile goals. I know it is only through my willingness, not my power, that those women are served.

Since opening my practice, I have been a member of the Wylie Lions Club. The motto for Lions Club International is "We Serve." What an appropriate motto given this issue's topic. As an aside, the Wylie Lions Club is currently selling Turkeys and Hams for the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday. Contact me, or any other Wylie Lions Club member, to order. They are incredibly tasty.

My active participation as a volunteer for the Wylie Chamber of Commerce began late 2008 when I was honored with an inquiry into my interest in serving on the Wylie Chamber Board of Directors. Prior to this inquiry, I had attended many Chamber events, but had not volunteered actively. My initial thoughts were, again, "what do I have to offer?" "How will I fit this into my already packed schedule?" Again, it all fell into place, and what a valuable place it is.

What I have learned is that we all have our own gifts, talents, strengths, and experiences that are invaluable to any organization; especially to those we are passionate about. I am passionate about Wylie, and I am passionate about serving people, my family, my clients, and my friends.

Service gives me the privilege of being an active participant in my community. I get to help cook and package turkeys for the Lions Club. I get to help with the concessions and vendors at the rodeo. I get to chair meetings and thank people for their contribution; all the while, providing an example to my two adorable nieces, and most importantly, my own son.

In return for sharing my gifts, talents, strengths, and experiences, I get so much in return. More than I could have ever imagined. I have found that I get to have fun, meet really good people, and learn from their gifts, talents, strengths, and experiences. One thing that I know for sure is that I don't know everything, but the more people I know, the more likely it is that I will have the resources to lean on and learn from when I am in need. I don't know why it continues to surprise me every time that I give, I always get back exponentially.

I am happy to say that I enjoy all the activities sponsored by the Wylie Chamber of Commerce, the Lions Club, and a host of many other great service organizations right here in my "little" town. Thank you for allowing me to serve you.

972-442-5700 www.WylieAttorney.com



John Lewis presenting a Leadership Wylie graduation plaque to Deborah.

ERNAT

Deborah is a Wylie Lions Club Member

Saturday, December 4 10 am - 8 pm • Olde City Park

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CHILD'S NAME: PARENT'S NAME: PHONE #:		CONTEST RULES: Open to children age 3-8. Entries will be divided into age groups: 3-4, 5-6, 7-8. One entry per child. Bring your child's entry to the Lions concession booth during the Wylie Art Festival Dec. 4, 2010 by 12 p.m. (Noon). Parents will be notified if your child's entry is a winner. Winners will receive \$20 gift certificate to WalMart. One winner per age group will be chosen.







CITIZENSHIP IN A

by Lori C. Villarreal

itizenship is a value we have deemed important enough that we shuffle our already overloaded curriculum around to make an effort to teach it in our schools. It's a tough value to define. Merriam-Webster.com describes Citizenship as the "quality of an individual's response to a membership in a community." Try that definition on your kids! Like all values, the behavior is better demonstrated than explained. The staff of "The Connection" magazine wanted to celebrate local citizens who have assumed responsibility toward, or perhaps ownership for, their community through their actions...their behavior.

Warner and Gerri Washington, Marilyn Fouts, and Jon Lashbrook are actively contributing to their community. Each resident has different motivates for getting involved but in all cases, a sense of community stewardship was role modeled in their childhood. Their individual efforts and willingness to engage have left an impact on their respective communities.

After 52 years of marriage, Gerri and Warner Washington still like each other! It is more common to see the two together than it is to see them apart. Gerri jokes that by participating as a volunteer with Warner she is more likely to be taken for a lunch date after a committee or club meeting. While lunch on the town is certainly a treat, there is no doubt that the pair gives much and gets much through their volunteer efforts.

The couple moved to Wylie 16 years ago to be closer to their grown children. Warner, who is retired, engaged in community



efforts immediately to "serve people and worthy endeavors". He served as a permanent deacon at Saint Anthony Catholic Church for 10 years before serving at Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church for the past six years, and Warner's service reaches farther into the community. He has participated on the City of Wylie Bond Committee, WISD School Bond Committee, and Wylie City Ambulance Board. He is an advocate for the Plano Symphony Orchestra and sings the praises of the award winning Barbershop Harmony Society Chorus, the Vocal Majority. Both he and Gerri are Ambassadors for the Wylie Chamber of Commerce, attending ribbon cuttings and greeting newcomers to the area.

Gerri's start in volunteerism began when she moved to the area and discovered she wanted to meet new people. Her early involvement with Saint Anthony Catholic Church and the Wylie Woman's League satisfied her desire to get to know people and she discovered she wanted to be "more deeply involved." Warner and Gerri's membership in the Wylie Lions Club allowed them to work closely with Hurricane Katrina evacuees as the club distributed eyeglasses to so many who migrated to the area. Gerri enjoyed making a difference for people whose lives had been devastated and who had lost so much. "It is a good feeling working with people and making a difference for a worthy cause," she says. With this in mind she has spent time encouraging residents of a local nursing home, volunteered as a Friend of the Library and now sits on the board. She participates as a "lecture" at her church and she and Warner host



COMMUNITY

photo by Anne Hiney

small groups of church-goers for discipleship and fellowship in their home.

It is clear that Warner and Gerri's participation as advocates and supporters to their community is motivated by a spiritual commitment to serve others. They find personal fulfillment in their connection to their community. And if that isn't reason enough for them to volunteer, Gerri claims volunteering is "better than watching T.V.!"

Marilyn Fouts, a Sacshe resident, is another woman who seems to prefer giving of her time and talent rather than watching T.V. I caught up with her for an interview between a Sachse First Methodist Church event planning meeting, a city counsel meeting, and a brief Relay for Life cancer awareness meeting she managed to participate in on the side. This busy woman seems to have given her entire schedule to serve her community.

A Sachse resident since 1975, her husband and she moved to the area for her horses. Her volunteer efforts are close to her heart as she has participated on an Advisory Board for the Sachse Animal Shelter. Starting long before a shelter was in place, Marilyn encouraged fostering and adoption of animals. She states that she "tries to bring the city's residents together by making people aware of the needs in the community." Marilyn is a seven year survivor of cancer and works to bring awareness to her community. About the time she was diagnosed, a group of neighborhood friends were too and they photo by Lori Villarreal

1111 2 22

found support in each other by being active together. Today, Marilyn works with Relay for Life representing Sachse in the fight against cancer.

When asked what she gets out of volunteering she claims she finds "satisfaction out of helping in various areas and it is nice to be a part of taking things a step further". Once a member of the annual Sachse Fall Festival committee, Marilyn is proud to say the event became important and large enough to the community that the Sachse Chamber of Commerce now manages the event. She was active in recycling and encouraging other residents to participate before the City was in a position to provide bins to each resident. Marilyn claims, "When you let people know what the need is, they will respond. Residents want to do more than just live and work here, they want to belong."

Jon Lashbrook belongs in the city of Murphy. He was reared by parents who believed in "paying it forward." Taught to do good when and where you can, Jon began doing just that when he moved his State Farm agency to Murphy in 1998. As one of the few business owners in the community at the time, Jon was an eager supporter and worked to get the Murphy Chamber of Commerce off the ground. Officially joining the Chamber board a few months after the Chamber's 2003 launch, Jon has been an active member and advocate since.

As Chairman of the Chamber's Scholarship Foundation he is proud to continue to grow the fund through fundraising auc- \sim continued next page tions, golf tournaments, and various other community events, – like Murphy Maize Days. Since 2005, the Foundation has gifted \$20,000 in scholarships to graduating high school seniors. This year the Foundation awarded four students \$1,000 scholarships and added two \$500 grants for outstanding teachers. With Jon's leadership and the efforts of his committee, this group of volunteers impacts the quality of not only individual lives but the greater good of the community as a whole.

When asked what he gains from his volunteer efforts Jon is quick to respond, "Good friends and positive relationships. Good stuff happens when you conduct yourself in a positive away." This is clearly the case as he has been recognized as the Murphy Chamber's Business of the Year in 2004 and a Business that Continues to Impact in 2009.

Jon has been with State Farm for 36 years. He is a life-long runner, having just logged his 32,000th mile! He is an avid antique collector and spends his weekends at garage and estate sales. He resides in St. Paul and has made Murphy his community.

Each citizen celebrated for their efforts got involved for different reasons. Warner Washington believes he should live scripture and serve others. Gerri Washington wants to belong to her community by knowing her neighbors. Marilyn Fouts wants to encourage a sense of ownership in her neighboring residents. Jon Lashbrook simply believes you do right to and for others. In each case their actions...behavior...led to outcomes that have benefited the greater good. Some of their involvement may have been as simple as showing up to a meeting while other efforts took a great deal of their time and talent. To be a citizen implies entitled rights or privileges to a member of a group. Citizenship, well, as you can see by the examples spotlighted, that takes effort...initiative. By being a part of a community, we garner certain privileges in services and protection from our governments. As member of our community we have the opportunity to impact the experience we each have within our neighborhoods by demonstrating an ownership or responsibility to one another as neighbors and fellow residents. That requires action.

Taking action to make a difference in other people's lives changes the experience of a community. Sometimes this effort has direct impact like replacement eye glasses for a hurricane victim or helping to fund a young person's higher education. Other times the change is indirect like educating a group about cancer detection. In all cases, a citizen had to assume responsibility toward the community's wellbeing as a whole.

So, if a value is better demonstrated than explained, Warner and Gerri Washington, Marilyn Fouts, and Jon Lashbrook certainly deserve this celebration in the spotlight. They have practiced a value that we as a society consider necessary. They are role models for our children who will one day steward this world and perhaps for those of us that do so now. So, if as Merriam-Webster suggests Citizenship is a "quality" of our response to our community. I ask myself what have I done to contribute to the quality for myself and my neighbor?

Thank you Warner and Gerri Washington, Marilyn Fouts, and Jon Lashbrook. Thank you to those of you who give your time and talent for the betterment of your community. May you be blessed in return and never be bored by T.V.! •





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The Library Nation Job Participation Strends Byboth

very army has its general; every organization its CEO; and every nation has a President. Jerri Smith is the President of the Library Nation, or as it is better known, the Friends of the Smith Public Library.

Armed with grace, energy and enthusiasm, Jerri Smith has been President since 2005. She is always quick to point out the large legacy of friends and Library Staff who have made our library special. The Smith Public Library and the Friends of the Library are a team united in the belief that Wylie's public library not only benefits our community but unites it.

Several decades of hard work and dedication from many Wylie citizens, grew the library from a rented property in the 1950s; to a 7,000 building donated by Rita & Truett Smith in the mid-1980s; to the new 43,900 square foot facility opening early next year. Members first organized in 1986 and have been going strong ever since!

The Friend's raise money to benefit our Library, and all funds raised goes to the Smith Public Library. The number and variety of those fundraisers is vast! Currently underway is a donation campaign for naming rights to the new meeting rooms; a Book Fair at Barnes & Noble November 6th and 7th; bake sales; Breakfast with Santa, "change jars" at local 7-11 stores and the annual Friends fundraiser at the home of Mrs. Rita Smith.

It was during Library renovations in 2005, that discussions leading to the construction of the new facility began between Jerri Smith, former Mayor John Mondy, and former Library Director, Mignon Morse. Alvie Bugbee and Sharon Petchkurow were also involved. Mrs. Smith recalls early discussions as "planting a seed that God watered". Mayor Pro Tem, Red Byboth, who frequently works with the Friend's states that, "From my perspective as a City Councilman, "the Library Nation", as I affectionately refer to them, is the strongest and most effective lobby in the city of Wylie. All during deliberations on the new municipal complex, they had strong representation at every meeting, ensuring they got what was needed for the new library. They clearly are a treasure and an asset for the citizens of Wylie!" Mrs. Smith works closely with Library Director, Rachel Orozco to determine the Library's needs and establish the Friends goals. Mrs. Orozco says that the Friends & Library staff "are much more like family than Board & Staff".

Jerri Smith never hesitates to praise those who contribute mightily to the Friend's cause. She credits library namesake, Rita Smith, with her ever present support. Jerri Smith says of Rita, "She is such a lady! And, no matter what is asked of her, she always says yes!"

Jerri Smith is especially grateful to many current and former leaders who have been a tremendous help, from former Mayor John Mondy, to current Mayor Eric Hogue. City Manager Mindy Manson, the Wylie City Council, Retha Tibbles, Mary Davis, Don & Gerry Whitt, Raymond Cooper, Home Depot and the Wylie Art Gallery have been extremely helpful and generous as well.

Mrs. Smith and the Friends also wish to remember a longtime friend and staff member, who passed away earlier this year. Calling Francis Anderhub a "true ambassador and a cherished, invaluable friend at the Library for over 10 years", the Library Staff and Friends are working to honor her with a \$500 leaf on the Library's Book Tree.

Special contributors include Sam Satterwhite and the Wylie Economic Development Corporation, who are supporting the library by funding online business resources. Mike Agnew and the Wylie Chamber of Commerce is assisting with the promotion of the computer lab in the new library.

With the new building construction nearing an end, what is remaining? Mrs. Smith says the Friends will begin to organize volunteers for the big move from the old facility to the new in January 2011. And then the push will be on for the Friends to fulfill their new goal: Add over 11,000 new items to the shelves. And, with more love, hard work and collaboration, they will!

Do you want to be a part of the Friends of the Smith Public Library? Go to: www.wylietexas.gov/library. Be a part of something big; the Library Nation! •





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9

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.

damage, also called neuropathy.

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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 neurophysiology and neuromuscular disease and researches these diseases actively. Prior to starting her practice in Richardson, Dr. Gupta worked at Northwest Missispipi Regional Medical Center.

(972) 783-8900 Devanshi Gupta, M.D. Dallas Neurological Associates 375 Municipal Dr., Ste. 222 Richardson, TX 75080

NOVEMBER EVENTS

November is Christian Care Month and that means Wylie ISD staff and students will hold their annual food drive to replenish the depleted shelves at the center. The community is encouraged to join in the fun. Simply drop off items from the following list at any school between November I and November 16. Students will gather them and deliver them to the center. Canned meat (tuna, chicken, ham, etc.,) canned fruits and vegetables, tomato products, dry pastas, cereals, noodles, rice, peanut butter, jelly, boxed dinners, cake mixes, Jell-O/pudding mixes, juices, powdered/canned milk, bread/biscuit mixes and toiletry items.

Nov. 12 - Dodd Elementary Fall Carnival! This is an event the whole family will love;. 6-9 p.m., \$7 entry fee for kids (\$5 with 2 canned good items) parents and children 0-2 years of age are FREE! Activities include games, food, a petting zoo, pie throwing booth, bounce houses, cake walk, face painting AND silent auction. (Silent Auction ends at 8:45 p.m.) Please don't forget we're having a canned food, phone book, and cell phone drive this night, so empty out those drawers/pantries and bring it with you to the carnival!

Nov. 13th - Craft lovers will enjoy the Wylie Women's League Fall Festival. This explosion of creativity is a real inspiration and celebration of local talent in Olde City Park at Ballard and Highway 78. Details can be found at www.wyliewl.org.

Nov. 16th Deadline - Place your order for the Wylie Lions Club 8th Annual Thanksgiving Turkey and Ham Fundraiser! Delicious smoked or fried turkey - \$40, smoked ham \$45. Contact Natalie at 972-442-1169 or natalie@allpestsolutions.com for details and to place your order. Pick up dates: Nov. 22nd & 23rd.

Nov. 16th - The 2010-11 Collin College Distinguished Speaker Series will host Daniel Seddequi at 7 p.m. at the Living Legends Conference Center (formerly Spring Creek) at the Spring Creek Campus. The lecture is free and open to the public. Seddequi has made a splash by traveling all 50 states working 50 different jobs in 50 weeks. The event is free and open to the public. Visit www.collin.edu/academics/csce/DistinguishedSpeakerSeries.html.

Nov. 19th - Heard Museum Star Party - Astronomy Night with Dr. David Baker. Fun astronomy based activities, geared toward families with kids. Dr. David Baker will present his new book *The 50 Most Extreme Places In Our Solar System*. Telescopes will be set up in the meadow behind the outdoor amphitheater for families to stargaze. To register e-mail smann@heardmuseum.org. 1 Nature Place, McKinney, Texas 75069, 972-562-5566, www.heardmuseum.org.

Nov. 20th - The Plano Symphony Orchestra presents Tango! Featuring special guests quartet San Francisco and Sandor & Parissa, dancers, at the Eisemann Center for Performing Arts - 2351 Performance Drive, Richardson, TX 75082. To order tickets, call the PSO Ticket Office at 972-473-7262 or go to www.planosymphony.org.

Nov. 24th - Wylie Christian Care Center 23rd Annual Thanksgiving Bake Sale at local banks. For more info. call Amy Napp at 214-863-5844 or Betty Lutz at 972-429-5521.

Nov. 25th - 7th Annual Sachse High School Turkey Trot. 8 a.m. on Thanksgiving Day at Sachse High School. There will be a one-mile and three-mile walk/fun run, a live DJ, and trophies for the top finishers in each category. Sponsorships for the event are available. Entry forms are available at www.garlandisdschools.net, in the school's office, or by emailing Sally Emert at sallyemert@aol.com. All proceeds benefit the Sachse High School Class of 2011 senior activities.

DECEMBER EVENTS

Dec. 2nd, 3rd & 5th - The Vocal Majority Chorus presents Christmas Around the World at the Charles W. Eisemann Center for the Performing Arts, 2351 Performance Drive, Richardson, TX 75082. Order Tickets at 972-744-4650. Thur. Dec. 2nd at 8 p.m.; Fri, Dec, 3rd at 8 p.m.; Sun. Dec. 5th at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.



Dec. 2nd - Murphy's Christmas in the Park from 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. (Fireworks at 8:15 p.m.) at Murphy Municipal Complex, 206 N. Murphy Rd. There will be local choirs, refreshments and a very special "jolly" guest! Call 972-468-4000 for details. Please bring a new unwrapped toy for our Toy Drive for Collin County Children's Advocacy Center.

Dec. 2nd - Santa will join us at the Sachse Library for a special story time as he reads Christmas stories to the children and hands out special gifts from the library at 6:30 p.m. The Sachse High School Madrigal Singers will perform special holiday-themed music for us at 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 3rd & 4th - Coventry 5th Annual Christmas Open House. Coventry is a day program that provides life enrichment opportunities for adults with special needs. Dec. 3: 5 - 9 p.m, Dec. 4: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. 2006 Parker Road, St. Paul, Texas 75098 (just 2 miles north of downtown Wylie) www.CoventryReserve.org.

Dec. 3rd - Sachse Daddy/Daughter Dance - OK girls, put on your dancin' shoes and get ready for a night of fun, games and activities, music, dance, and snacks. A picture will be taken and given to each couple to remember this occasion. 7-9 p.m. at the Sachse Senior Activity Center, 3815A Sachse Rd. \$15/couple.

Dec. 4th - Wylie Women's League presents Pancakes with Santa! 8 - 10 a.m. at Wylie Fire Station #3, 210 North W.A. Allen. All you can Eat Pancakes! Tickets: 5 years old and under Free, 6-11 years old \$3, 12 years and older \$5. Purchase Tickets at the Wylie Flower Shop or the Wylie Fire Station #3 or Call for Reservations @ 972-442-0156 Don't forget to bring your camera for pictures with Santa & Mrs. Claus!

Dec. 4th - Wylie Arts Festival. 10 a.m. – 8 p.m., in Wylie's Olde City Park Downtown, Hwy. 78 & Ballard Ave. Shop for fine art and handmade crafts, listen to the sounds of the season, and enjoy festive foods. The fun continues at 5:30 p.m. with the Festival of Lights Christmas Parade sponsored by First Baptist Wylie and the Downtown Merchants Association. Top off the evening with the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony at 7 p.m. featuring Mayor Eric Hogue's reading of The Night Before Christmas and music by the First Baptist Wylie choir. Come enjoy the sights and sounds of the holidays. There is something for everyone. More Than 60 Handmade Arts and Crafts Booths, Children's Storytelling, Festive Foods, Children's Area with a Large Assortment of Inflatables, Entertainment.

Dec. 5th - Holiday Tea for the American Cancer Society Relay for Life 2011 Survivors at the Grand Heritage Clubhouse, 200 Grand Heritage Blvd., Lavon, Texas 75166 from 2 – 5 p.m. Contact Rita Barnhart at 972- 978-4538 for more info. and to RSVP.

Dec. 6th or 9th - Reach for a Star Golf Tournament. Tuesday, Dec. 6th, 12 p.m. Shotgun Start OR Thursday, Dec. 9th, 9 a.m. Shotgun Start. (Registration 1 hour prior to start). 4 Person Scramble at Woodbridge Golf Club, \$20 Player Fee Plus a New, Unwrapped Toy (w/value \$10 min.) OR \$10 Donation.

Dec. 7th - Sachse Chamber of Commerce invites you to the 12th Annual Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony and Christmas carols from 5:30 - 7 p.m. The tree lighting will take place next to the red caboose at 5941 Highway 78. Immediately following the tree lighting, please join us for light refreshments at the Chamber office.

Dec. 11th - Calling all school bands, choirs, dance groups, scout troops, and organizations in Sachse who want to march in Sachse's annual Christmas Parade. Meet at Hudson Middle School for the line-up at 9 a.m. The parade starts at 9:30 a.m, proceeds up Miles Road to Sachse Road, ending at the new municipal complex, where boys and girls ages 10 and under can visit with Santa at the annual Cookies with Santa from 10 a.m. until 12 noon. Please bring a canned good and/or non-perishable food item for donation to the Fraternal Order of Police holiday food drive. Everyone will receive a raffle ticket that will be entered into prize drawings held throughout the Cookies with Santa event. For more info. or to register for the parade, please call 469-429-4771 or 469-429-0275.

Dec. 17th, 18th & 19th - Heard Museum Holiday Trail of Lights – 6:30 to 9 p.m. See thousands of twinkling holiday lights along a nature trail and enjoy festive activities. 1 Nature Place, McKinney, Texas 75069, 972-562-5566, www.heardmuseum.org.

Dec. 19th - Plano Symphony Orchestra presents "Family Traditions." Hector Guzman and the Plano Symphony are joined by the Plano Civic Chorus, directed by Ralph Stannard, and Teresa Gomez, soprano. 4 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. at St. Andrew United Methodist Church - 5801 W. Plano Pkwy., Plano, TX 75093. To order tickets, call the PSO Ticket Office at 972-473-7262 or visit www.planosymphony.org.

Don't miss your community celebration of the Christmas Season! Murphy's Christmas in the Park is Dec. 2nd, Wylie's Christmas Parade of Lights and Tree Lighting are on Dec. 4th, and Sachse's Christmas Tree Lighting is on Dec. 7th and the Christmas Parade is Dec. 11th. Happy Holidays!

WYLIE'S RITA AND TRUETT SMITH PUBLIC LIBRARY EVENTS

Located at 800 Thomas Street, Wylie 972-442-7566

Library Memory Book Project - Celebrating 25 years on Thomas Street: Nov. 1st - Dec. 23rd

As the library prepares to move to its new location, we'd love for our patrons to share their memories of the library. Visit the library to pick up scrapbook paper and embellishments to create your own page for our memory book. All pages should be turned in by December 30. Old pro at scrapbooking? Stop by to pick up guidelines for our book. Need help making a page? No problem! Sessions will be held to offer assistance. Watch the library newsletter and website for more details. The memory book will be displayed at the new library.

Thru Nov. 30th - The Smith Public Library is collecting much needed items for our furry friends at the City of Wylie Animal Shelter. Visit the library to donate an item from the wish list and up to \$10.00 in overdue fines will be waived from your library account. Fees will not be waived for lost or damaged items.

Thru Nov. 30th - Come Write In! - National Novel Writing Month

November is National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo.org), when thousands of aspiring authors pledge to make their dreams a priority and draft a novel in 30 days. During the month the Library welcomes all to explore its writing resources or settle in with their laptop to crank out a few pages. The Bluebonnet Room has been reserved for formal write-ins on the following dates: Mon., Nov. 15 from 5 – 8 p.m. & Sat., Nov. 20th from 12 Noon – 4 p.m. Contact Nina at 972-442-7566 for more information.

Dec. 6th - The New Medicare: Big changes have come to Medicare and they start January 2011. Are you confused about what these new choices mean for you or your loved ones? Medicare specialist and licensed agent Memory Wilks will explain how Medicare Advantage is different and provide information on available options. This information session is free and open to the public at 6 p.m.

Dec. 9th - Holiday Concert at the Library: The Smith Public Library invites you to listen to the sweet sounds of Wylie ISD's flute choir as it performs music sure to get you in the holiday spirit. This event is free and open to the public at 6:30 PM

Dec. 20th - A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens Performed by Jerry Young dressed as Scrooge at 6:30 p.m. All ages welcome.

Wednesday Morning Story Time:

Books & Babies: 9:00 a.m., Ages 0-1, 20 minutes. NEW!

Toddler Time: 9:30 and 10:00 a.m., Ages 1-2, 25 minutes. Free tickets are required to attend. Tickets are available on a first come, first served basis story time morning.

Big Kid Story time: 10:45 and 11:30 a.m., 30 minutes. *Free tickets are required to attend. Tickets are available on a first come, first served basis story time morning.*

Story Time Dates & Themes:

Nov. 3: Great Big Things; Nov. 10: Hometown Heroes; Nov. 17: Dance Dance Fever; Nov. 24: Thank You Thanksgiving

Dec. 1: What a Wonderful Time of the Year!; Dec. 8: Fairy-the-Well

Wagging Tales: 6-7 p.m.

Nov. 4th & 18th and Dec. 2nd & 16th - Practice your skills by reading aloud to Abby! Tickets are limited and free. They are given out on a first come, first served basis the evening of the event.

BeTween Book & Movie Club (4th & 5th Graders): 6:30 p.m.

4th & 5th graders are encouraged to read the book and watch the movie on their own time, then come to our meeting for discussion. We talk about the differences between the book and movie, favorite plot points and characters and much more! We read passages from the book and watch scenes from the movie. Snacks are provided.

Dec. 2nd - How to Train Your Dragon by Cresidda Cowel.

Wylie Friends of the Library: 6 p.m.

Nov. 18th - The Friends of the Rita & Truett Smith Public Library have their monthly meeting in the Bluebonnet Room. To celebrate the ground-breaking of the new 43,934 sq. ft. library, membership fees are currently half price.

Submit Your Event to the Calendar!

To submit your special event to the January/February community calendar send an e-mail to theconnection.anne@mac.com no later than December 10th. 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!

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!

Day Trips: Call the center to confirm dates & times

Dec. 1: Allen Mall Dec. 8: Ice Show at the Gaylord Texan Dec. 29: Grapevine Mall

Health Care Seminars:

Nov. 9, Nov. 18, & Nov. 23

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

CHAMBER of COMMERCE EVENTS

WYLIE www.wyliechamber.org

972-442-2804

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.

Nov. 16th - Christian Care Luncheon at St. Anthony's Catholic Church •RSVP Required• No luncheon in December.

Every Wednesday Business Card Exchange: Woodbridge Golf Course club house, 7400 Country Club Dr., Wylie. Network and promote your business from 8 - 9 a.m. LAST EVENT FOR 2010 IS DEC. 15TH.

SACHSE www.sachsechamber.com 972-496-1212

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.

Sept. 14th - Go to www.sachsechamber.com for more info. Oct. 12th - Go to www.sachsechamber.com for more info.

MURPHY murphychamber.org 972-805-3749

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.

Nov. 16 - The city of Murphy will present it's State of the City address. Taste of Home will cater a delicious Holiday dinner.

One week early, Dec. 14 - Boggess Elementary's choir will sing holiday selections. Taste of Home will cater. We will also hold Chamber officer and board elections.

Come & Go Luncheon: none in Nov. or Dec.

Second Tuesday Business Card Exchange: Dec. 14th at 7:30 - 8:30 a.m. at Saxby's Coffee (FM 544 in Murphy Marketplace). Join us for good coffee and good pastries! Bring plenty of business cards and brochures. Mix, mingle, make contacts and enter the raffle for a chance to win prizes!

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Thank You!

First, I want to say thank you to all of Wylie, Sachse, Murphy and Lavon for making this an amazing real estate year for me. The "market" may be ugly in other parts of the country but we are buying and selling homes every day in North Texas. I was privileged to assist with accomplishing the home ownership goals of about 60 families this year. Thank you all very much and I wish you the happiest of holidays!

It is still warm outside but the drier fall air is here which means winter may or may not be too far behind. Texas is so unpredictable but freezing temperatures will be here at some point. Last year I got caught with my proverbial pants down. Bad weather was striking while I was scrounging for faucet covers, not just for myself but for a friend that was out of state and a client. Nine p.m. the night before low 20 degree temperatures are forecast is not a good place to be. Towels, zip ties and duct tape are a girls best friend is all I'm gonna say about that, except that it wouldn't have been that hard if I had done a little planning. So here are some bullet points for winterizing and I would like to suggest that you start running the list right now before you get caught with your proverbial pants down!

- Buy your insulated faucet covers now because they will be sold out when the freeze warnings go up. You may still be using the hoses but disconnect and drain them after each use and have the covers handy.
- Before it gets to cold, check out your window and door caulking. Touch up/ or replace as needed.
- Get your heater serviced. This will lower your bills and hopefully prevent those failures on the coldest nights.
- Add insulation and weather stripping in the attic, around attic ladders, outlet covers, doors and windows.
- Make sure your fireplace damper is closed when not in use. Speaking of fireplaces, clean your chimney or have it cleaned.
- Take a close look at your roof. I noticed a lot of missing shingles while making some rounds on Tuesday. Call me if you need a roofer recommendation.
- Purchase and install a carbon monoxide detector. An inspector that I trust recommends the plug-in type and reminds people that these detectors have an expiration date so please check it if you already have a detector installed.

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Volunteer CONNECTION

by Pamela Smith

CASA of Collin County

Providing a Brighter Future for Children

where see images of them every day on the local news – abused and neglected children rescued from desperate situations; most abandoned and left to deal with the emotional, physical and legal ramifications of their catastrophic home life. Who will fight for the scared and lonely children who are faced with life-altering decisions?

In Collin County, the court assigns 100 percent of abused children removed from unsafe homes a guardian ad litem. These individuals are screened, trained and supervised by CASA(Court Appointed Special Advocates) of Collin County, which was incorporated in 1991 to provide community volunteers to serve as the voice for the best interests of abused and neglected children involved in the court system.

In 2009, CASA served 453 children from Collin County. With a strong base of 205 active volunteer advocates, CASA is still in need of help for the growing epidemic of child abuse in Texas. A recent study found that more children are dying from abuse in Texas than any other state while cuts are reducing funds to protect abused children.

"Child abuse is a problem in Collin County," said Susan Etheridge, CASA of Collin County Executive Director. "If you



Virginia Barrett, The 2008 TX CASA Volunteer of the Year, with Collin County Commissioner Kathy Ward, CASA staff Erica Baig, Susan Etheridge, Dianne McCall and Kathy Blank as well as Collin County Commissioner Joe Jaynes.

have not been personally touched you tend to believe this is someone else's problem, not our problem, but it is our problem. CASA is making a real difference for abused children. We are an independent part of the puzzle. We get to know what is in the child's best interest by forming a relationship and by doing all of the work that it takes to know what's going on."

Etheridge, a former teacher and CPS supervisor, believes in the benefits CASA provides children and the community.

"The Texas legislature, two sessions ago, mandated that every child that is placed into foster care is appointed both an attorney ad litem (at law) to handle their legal needs and a guardian ad litem to speak to their best interests. In many counties including Dallas, Tarrant and other surrounding counties, the county pays for that service. They hire an attorney to be the attorney ad litem and [another] attorney to be the



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guardian ad litem. In Collin County a CASA volunteer acts as the guardian ad litem. If Collin County tax payers would have had to pay attorneys to do what we do, it would have cost the county over \$3 million last year to pay for what we did for free," Etheridge added.

CASA, one of the largest, volunteer organizations in the country, credits their success to the continued support of the community. For more information contact CASA at (972) 529-2272 or visit www. casaofcollincounty.org. •

The CASA Resource Room is the place where a foster child's CASA can gather needed new items so that no child has to go without the clothing, toys or necessities they need.

How you can help!

Become a CASA volunteer advocate: Next class January 2011 (There is a special need for male volunteers.)

- Support CASA financially: Take "Nathan's Challenge" and support CASA's year end campaign to raise \$25,000. It costs approximately \$1,500 for CASA to serve each foster child.
- Attend or support a CASA special event: The 10th Annual Voice for Children Gala is February 12, 2011.
- Sponsor, attend or donate to the live/silent auction.
- Sponsor a donation drive for CASA.

Donate gift cards of \$10 or more to local fast food restaurants or stores like Wal-Mart and Target.

- Donate gas cards for volunteers who travel out of county to visit their foster child.
- Send NEW clothing for children newborn to age 18 Mittens, hats and gloves Coats & Hoodies Jeans T-shirts & long-sleeve T's that meet school dress code Sweaters
 - Socks & underwear

Send NEW developmental toys

Puzzles for ages 3-18 Board games for ages 2-18 Infant toys such as rattles and developmental toys for infants under age 3

For more information about becoming a CASA volunteer visit www.casaofcollincounty.org or call (972) 529-2272.



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Volunteer CONNECTION

by Craig Kelly - Wylie City Information Officer

Volunteers Bring Holiday Cheer to Needy Families

magine waking up Christmas morning and not finding any gifts under the tree. That is the reality for many area children and families.

Reach for a Star, the City of Wylie's gift assistance program, brings smiles to children and families by providing new clothes and toys. The program assists families of children who live in Wylie or attend the Wylie Independent School District that otherwise would not be able to provide Christmas for their children. This year, with your help, close to 500 children from 195 families will have gifts to open Christmas morning.

Pick up a star(s) between November 10th and December 14th at City Hall or other Reach for a Star locations throughout the City of Wylie. Purchase three of the gifts listed on the tag and drop off the new gifts by December 14 to Wylie Fire-Rescue Administration; the three story building located at 801-A S. Hwy. 78, Suite #204, adjacent to Brookshires.

City Staff and volunteers accepted and reviewed applications from needy families during a one day event at the First Baptist Church Wylie Events Center on October 9th. The stars were created and distributed on trees at more than 20 locations. The donated gifts will be organized at the Wylie National Guard Armory for a one-day pick-up on December 22nd. The success of the program is based on more than 600 volunteer hours from over 60 City Staff, Citizen Police Academy and Boy Scout volunteers.

"It's a lot of work and long hours, but you get wrapped up in the stories...they hit home", says Cheryl Smith, Wylie Fire-Rescue Administrative Support Supervisor and Reach for a Star Coordinator. "Single moms who have lost their jobs, dads who have become disabled, death in the family, health issues, the list goes on and on. Moms and dads just want to see their kids eyes light up on Christmas morning."

Each year, many stars are picked up by citizens with good intentions, but toys are not returned, three gifts are not purchased per child, or some stars are simply not picked up. City staff is committed to making sure every child accepted into the program has a merry Christmas.

Watch for several events to help raise the needed funds to purchase toys. Firemen will be out in full force during the December 4th Arts Festival, Parade and Tree Lighting for a Fill the Boot campaign. The annual Woodbridge Country Club Reach for a Star golf tournament is scheduled for Tuesday, December 6th. All proceeds from the tournament go to Reach for a Star. And the most unique fundraising event of all is a 24 Hour Workout by Assistant City Manager, Jeff Butters and Assistant Planner, Jason Haskins.

This year help a child's wish come true. Consider picking up stars for a whole family; or commit your work or church to purchasing gifts for several families. If you do not have the time to shop for gifts, consider a donation and volunteers will do the shopping.



For more information on the Reach for a Star program, to make a donation, or to adopt a large number of stars, contact Cheryl Smith, 972-941-8961. •

photos provided by the City of Wylie



Gifts are lined up on the floor of Wylie National Guard Armory in preparation for pick up.



Wylie Public Works employees, aka Santa's Helpers, Todd Stevens, David Carter and Ernest Ramirez carry gifts to the car of a Reach for a Star participant..



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Arts CONNECTION

Suarez Selected as Featured Artist for Wylie Arts Festival

provided by the City of Wylie Public Arts Committee

rt is a fusion of human emotion and experience", says local artist Rudy Suarez. Influenced by South American Artists Mamani Mamani and Hugh Lecaro, his unique, vivid, colorful watercolors, reflect the culture and memories of his beloved homeland, Bolivia.

Suarez moved from Bolivia to Redwood. California in 1993. He was initially drawn to ceramcreating colorful ics. mariachis and nativities, but later discovered the beauty of watercol-

ors. Developing his unique style, Suarez entered the San Jose Cinco De Mayo art contest in 1999, winning first place. Five more consecutive wins later, Suarez began to realize that he had found a medium that enabled him to bring to life and share with others his life's stories and



In 2004, Suarez moved to Wylie, Texas and continued pursuing his love of painting and art. He has sold more than 1,000 paintings since moving to Texas and was honored that his work was selected and showcased on the front page of the 2005 Dallas Yellow Pages. Suarez has a passion for kids, conducts after school programs in ceramics and watercolors, and has future plans to write and illustrate children's and craft books.

Mr. Suarez continues to receive accolades for his work, being selected as the featured artist for the 2010 Wylie Arts Festival. His watercolor, titled Pepinos, will adorn the festival t-shirts and many of his works will be on display and available for purchase during the festival. Pepinos depicts the marching and dancing groups found during the Carnival De Oruro, a festival in the Andes mountains of western Bolivia. •



Wylie Arts Festival, Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting

The City of Wylie, the Public Arts Advisory Board, Garnet Hill Rehabilitation and Skilled Care, and Methodist Richardson Medical Center are proud to present the Wylie Arts Festival December 4th, downtown in Wylie's historic Olde City Park. Shop for fine art and handmade crafts, listen to the sounds of the season, and enjoy festive foods.

The fun continues at 5:30 p.m. with the Festival of Lights Christmas Parade sponsored by First Baptist Church Wylie and the Downtown Merchants Association.

Top off the evening with the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony at 7 p.m. featuring Mayor Eric Hogue's reading of The Night Before Christmas and music by the First Baptist Church Wylie choir.

Come enjoy the sights and sounds of the holidays. There is something for everyone.

- More Than 60 Handmade Arts and Crafts Booths
- Children's Storytelling
- Festive Foods
- Children's Area with a Large Assortment of Inflatables
- Entertainment

Wylie Arts Festival	Olde City Park	0 am - 8 p.m.
Festival of Lights Parade	Downtown on Ballard	5:30 p.m.
Tree Lighting	Olde City Park	7 p.m.





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Health CONNECTION

The Health Benefits of Volunteering

by Nancy Donachie, MD



Whe all know that volunteering can be rewarding in many ways. You can make a difference in someone's life, meet new friends, develop leadership skills, and learn more about your community. The gift of giving also has a positive impact on your mental health.

Feeling isolated and lonely is a common and serious consequence of depression. Getting involved in a volunteer group can help you improve your social connections. A study by researchers at the University of Texas at Austin found that volunteer work can counter negative moods such as depression and anxiety since it helps you become socially integrated and break out of your isolation. The study showed that volunteering is especially beneficial for

Want to volunteer? Methodist Richardson Medical Center Auxiliary is looking for long-term volunteers who can commit to a four-hour shift each week. Duties will include working at information desks and providing support to hospital departments. Apply at www. methodistrichardson.org/volunteers or call 972-498-4788 for more information.

people over the age of 65. This study also suggested that when individuals volunteered for religious reasons, they received even more positive benefit, perhaps because this type of motivation enhanced a sense of purpose and accomplishment.

Helping others can also boost your selfesteem. Culturally, we have a strong positive image of volunteering in our society. So there's much to gain from the positive social reinforcement of volunteer work.

A good example of the positive effects of volunteering is Alcoholics Anonymous (AA). The 12-step program is run by volunteers who have overcome their own addiction and are now dedicated to helping others become sober. AA volunteers see an improvement in their quality of life,

> and some volunteers even believe that it helps them maintain their sobriety.

The same is true for many other people who volunteer for nonprofit organizations such as Susan G. Komen for the Cure. Breast cancer survivors who become volunteers play a huge role in raising funds for clinical research and educating others about early detection and cancer prevention. These volunteers are making an impact on health advancements and making a difference in the lives of other women. The broader health benefits make volunteering even more worthwhile. Volunteering can lead to increased physical activity, which can improve your cognitive function and overall cardiovascular health.

If you are battling the blues, think about becoming a volunteer. The benefits to both your mental and physical health are great. By helping others, you can help yourself.

Nancy Donachie, MD, completed her medical training and residency at the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston. She specializes in the treatment of depression, anxiety disorders, and mood disorders. Dr. Donachie is an independently practicing, board-certified psychiatrist on the medical staff of Methodist Richardson Medical Center's Mental



Health Services Department, which offers patients a full scope of services for the diagnosis and treatment of mental health disorders and substance abuse problems. To make an appointment with Dr. Donachie, call 972-733-7242.

Texas law prohibits hospitals from practicing medicine. Dr. Donachie is an independently practicing physician on the Methodist Richardson Medical Center medical staff and is not an employee or agent of Methodist Richardson Medical Center or Methodist Health System.

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HOME LOANS

Food CONNECTION

Try Out a Tasty New Holiday Recipe

Honey-Glazed Sweet Potatoes

Instead of topping canned sweet potatoes with a glaze and miniature marshmallows, this version uses fresh sweet potatoes and a lighter, less gooey glaze.

Ingredients:

- 1/4 cup water
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 2 pounds sweet potatoes

(about 4 large)

Cracked black pepper or chopped herb of choice (rosemary, sage or thyme)

Directions:

Heat oven to 375 degrees. Spray a baking dish with nonstick spray. Combine water, brown sugar, honey and olive oil in a cup to form a sauce. Peel and cut the sweet potatoes into wedges. Place in a single layer in the baking dish. Pour the sauce over the sweet potatoes. Turn to coat them.

Cover and bake for about 45 minutes or until tender; turn the sweet potatoes once or twice to continue coating them. When tender, remove the cover and continue to bake until the glaze is set, about 15 minutes. Serve topped with cracked black pepper or chopped herb of choice.

Makes 8 servings

Cranberry Rice

Ingredients:

- 1 package wild and white rice
- 1/4 cup toasted walnuts
- 1/4 cup sliced green onions
- 1/2 cup dried cranberries
- 1 teaspoon orange zest
- 1 teaspoon olive oil
- Salt and pepper to taste

Directions:

Prepare the rice according to package directions (includes 1 tablespoon butter).

In a medium bowl, mix together the walnuts, green onions, cranberries, zest, olive oil, salt and pepper. Add the rice and toss well.

Makes 4 (1/2 cup) servings



stock photo

Pork Roast With Spicy Maple Glaze

Ingredients:

2 1/2 pounds boneless pork loin roast, trimmed of visible fat

- 1 cup light pancake syrup
- 4 tablespoons Dijon-style mustard
- 2 1/2 tablespoons cider vinegar
- 2 1/2 tablespoons light soy sauce
- Ground black pepper to taste
- Salt to taste

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Coat the bottom of a shallow roasting pan with canola cooking spray.

Put syrup, mustard, vinegar, soy sauce, salt, and pepper in a small bowl and set aside.

Place pork roast in a prepared roasting pan. Spread glaze evenly over the pork roast. Bake in oven until meat thermometer reaches 160 degrees (45 minutes to 1 1/2 hours). Remove from oven and let rest 10 minutes. Slice and serve.

Magic Cookie Bars

Ingredients:

- 1-1/2 cups graham cracker crumbs
- 4 tablespoons butter, melted
- 1 tablespoon canola oil
- 2 cups sweetened flaked coconut
- 1 cup plus 2 tablespoons nonfat dry milk
- 3/4 cup white sugar
- 1/2 cup boiling water
- 1 cup dark chocolate chips, such
 - as Ghiradelli 60% cacao chips
- 1/2 cup peanut butter

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spray a 9 x 13 pan with nonstick cooking spray. Stir together graham cracker crumbs, melted butter and canola oil. Press into the bottom of the prepared pan. Sprinkle coconut evenly over graham cracker mixture.

Whisk together nonfat dry milk, sugar and boiling water in a microwave-safe bowl. Heat 30-60 seconds in the microwave until mixture is easy to pour. Pour evenly over coconut. Bake 22-25 minutes until golden brown on top.

Mix chocolate chips and peanut butter together in a microwave-safe dish. Heat for 60 seconds in the microwave. Stir. If chips are smooth enough to stir, microwave another 15 seconds. Stir until well combined. Pour evenly over coconut mixture. Let cool, then refrigerate several hours or until hard.

Makes 24 bars. •

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Lions Club

Lions are groups of service-minded men and women who are interested in improving their communities. Lions are an international network of 1.3 million men and women in 205 countries and geographic areas who work together to answer the needs that challenge communities around the world. To become a Lion is to become an active volunteer, a member of a respected international organiza-

tion, a leader in your community and a friend to people in need. The Lions motto is "We Serve." Lions Club programs include sight conservation, hearing and speech conservation, diabetes awareness, youth outreach, international relations, environmental issues, and other programs. All funds raised by Lions Clubs from the general public are used for charitable purposes, and administrative costs are kept strictly separate and paid for by members. All of the money raised for a club's charity account goes toward projects that benefit the local community of an individual club.

One very special service that Lions provide is the Texas Lions Camp for children with physical disabilities, type 1 diabetes and cancer. It is located on over 500 acres in the beautiful Texas Hill Country. The camp is designed to introduce the "Can Do" philosophy to children dealing with special medical conditions. Children learn that disabilities are only challenges to be met - not insurmountable obstacles. Lions provide the camp at no charge to the camper!



The Lions Clubs of Wylie and Sachse support a wide variety of causes within our communities - too numerous to list. If you have a servants heart we welcome you to join us.

The Wylie Lions Club meets the 2nd & 4th Thursday, at noon, at American National Bank in Wylie.

The Wylie Evening Lions Club meets the 1st & 3rd Thursday, at 7 p.m., at American National Bank in Wylie.

The Sachse Lions Club meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month, at 6:30 p.m., at Steak Kountry in Sachse.

If you would like to learn more about Lions International go to www.lionsclubs.org. See page 40 for local club contact information.

Get to Know Our Local

Masons

East Fork Lodge #650 Ancient Free and Accepted Masons is located at 508 Parker Road in Wylie. Stated Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.. Dinner is served at 6:30 p.m., with great food and fellowship enjoyed by all.

As the world's oldest and largest fraternal organization, Freemasonry today is built on Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. Through fellowship, charity, education and leadership, Freemasons are making their lives and communities stronger by the day. Freemasons are active in their community, providing valuable services and contributions. They provide aid and assistance to the aged, widowed, orphaned and others in need in the community.

Of special interest are the Hospitals established in Texas, by Freemasons, to provide free specialized medical assistance to children. The Scottish Rite Hospital for Children was originally established in 1921 in response to a growing epidemic of polio, and continues providing Texas children with orthopedic treatment for conditions such as scoliosis, clubfoot, hand and hip disorders and limb length differences, as well as learning disorders such as dyslexia. The Shriners Hospital for Children is a one-of-a-kind international health care system dedicated to providing specialty pediatric care for children with orthopedic conditions, burns, spinal cord injuries and cleft lip and palate.

Freemasons are particularly proud of their rich history as partners in education. As early as 1848, the Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas provided for an education and charity fund and appointed Mirabeau Lamar as superintendent of education. Realizing the importance of education to the future of Texas, Masons opened schools in their Lodge buildings. It is generally recognized that our



Texas public school system was conceived and established by Texas Masons. In the spirit of this tradition, East Fork Masonic Lodge sets aside funds for scholarships to recognize and reward two exemplary Wylie ISD Seniors each year.

For more information contact John Simmons at 972-442-5964 or visit our website at www.eastforklodge.org.
Rotary Club

Rotary International is a service focused organization made up of business and community leaders all over the world that believe putting others first is fundamental to a community's well being. The local East Fork Rotary Club has been a presence in the Wylie area for over 20 years, and just recently expanded its area of influence into Sachse, Murphy, and Lavon as well. Previously known as the Wylie Rotary Club, East Fork has been an integral part of the Wylie community in a number of different ways.

Raising money for high school scholarships has always been an area of focus, as each year, the club provides two \$1,000 college scholarships to deserving high school seniors that have displayed characteristics of leadership, ethics, and service. The club also sends at least two high school juniors to a week long leadership camp so that they can further develop their leadership skills. The club has recently enhanced their relationship with students through the sponsoring of a high school interact club located on the campus of Wylie East High School.

Aside from focusing on serving our youth, the East Fork Rotary Club participates year round in community service projects ranging from Meals on Wheels, park improvements and maintenance, and organizing the Battle of the Badges Blood Drive between the Police and Fire Departments. The



club also has the opportunity to contribute funds to local events such as the back to school supply drive and the Reach for a Star program. Most recently, they teamed up with local bakery Say It With Sugar to participate in an adoption awareness carnival in Dallas.

East Fork is a club that always looks for other service-minded individuals to join them as they pool one another's' resources to better serve the community. If you live or work in Wylie, Sachse, Murphy, or Lavon, and you would like to be a part of growing this club into one of the most influential service groups in the Dallas area, please contact Bryan Brokaw at 972-429-4465 or come to one of our meetings on Thursdays, at noon, at the Woodbridge Golf Club.

Service Organizations

Exchange Club

The Exchange Club of Murphy, Texas is a Community Service organization devoted to the ideals of the American spirit. We encourage our children with our Youth Programs, we respect our country with our Americanism Program, and we fight for the rights of abused children with our Child Abuse Prevention Campaigns. If these are important to you, and you want to make your community a better place to live, then join us. We welcome your support.

The Exchange Club of Murphy meets, at noon, at Country Burger on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month for lunch, fellowship, and our business meeting. Country Burger is located at 104 N. Murphy Rd., Suite 210, in Murphy, 972-516-2210.

Our Major Activities throughout the year

- Providing Scholarships for graduating seniors and students that overcome hardships
- Coat drive for Collin County Children's Advocacy Center
- Raising money for Murphy Fire Department and Police Department
- Annual Field of Flags
- Send blankets to deployed troops

Current fundraising project:

Fresh Texas Pecans for your Holiday Baking or Gift Giving – Already shelled and packaged!

Come join us, and be a part of an organization that really does make a difference!!

For more information, call Cheryl Collins at 469-463-6950 or Mary Pat Elledge at 214-923-3114 or check us out at www.exchangeclubofmurphytexas.org.



Volunteer CONNECTION

Interested in Scouting? Visit www.greatplainsbsa.org or www.girlscoutsofnortheasttexas.org for info.

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.



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In-Sync Exotics Wildlife Rescue &

Educational Center is a non-profit 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.

MOMS Club of Murphy/Sachse is a non-profit support group for stay-at-home moms and their children. Activities include monthly meetings with guest 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.com for further info.

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 to www.wyliemomsandmore.org.

MOPS of Sachse/Wylie/Murphy Mothers of Preschoolers meet at Park Lake Church at 3702 Sachse Road in Sachse on the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays (September-May) from 9 - 11:30 a.m. Mothers with children from birth through kindergarten are invited. Childcare is included with semester MOPS dues. To RSVP or for more information 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. The Lion's Club participates in several fundraisers throughout the year, including the Sewell Elementary pancake breakfast, where half of the proceeds go back to the Sewell PTA, and the turkey leg food booth at the Sachse Fallfest. The funds raised 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.

Wylie Lions Club meets the 2nd and 4th Thursday 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. Contact 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.com for additional info.

Wylie 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. •



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Cesar Torres, MD Family/Sports Medicine Se habla español

Stephen Kim, MD Family Medicine

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Big Cats & Other Not So Tall Tales

by Heather Darrow of Collin College

When Nicole Brown becomes an elementary school teacher her class will sit at rapt attention to her story time tales. She will tell the wideeyed boys and girls about the time she stood close to 200-pound cougars with piercing green eyes and sleek brown fur and how they purred and swatted at holiday lights as though they were housecats playing with pieces of twine. Her students will be able to visualize her unique experience and also hear the story of how she came to be in a place with more than 50 large, exotic felines.

The children will learn about Collin College and the value of volunteering. Brown took a psychology service learning class at the college and volunteered at In-Sync Exotics, a Collin County wildlife rescue and education center, which currently houses 12 cougars, 24 tigers and a total of 53 rescued, exotic cats.

"They are huge. I have never been that close to big animals. They had everything: cougars, lions, tigers and even a white tiger. There were so many of them. Usually when you are at a zoo there is a cage, but you are behind a wall. At this sanctuary, you can get close to the cages. It was really fun and different," Brown said.

According to Lisa Williams, media director for In-Sync Exotics, these cats cannot go to zoos because they are inbred. The cougars were people's pets, and the tigers and lions were initially used to make money, in ways such as having photos taken with the cubs. Later, they were used for breeding. Eventually, they were cast aside and underfed; some were on the verge of death before they made their way to the sanctuary.

"My sister attends Collin College, and she completed service learning at our facility as well. The service that is provided by Collin College volunteers is valued and appreciated. What the volunteers provide is immeasurable. We could not offer the sanctuary without volunteers. It is what keeps us going and makes us able to take care of the cats. We never sell the cats or give them away. They stay with us forever," Williams said.



Ricki Hart training Lucca.

Last year, more than 900 Collin College students volunteered with more than 200 community partners and logged in more than 14,000 service learning hours.

A hands-on learner, Brown especially enjoyed the service learning aspect of class and highly recommends it to others. She plans to earn a bachelor's degree in 2013. While her future students will be keyed up about lions, tigers and cougars, Brown's excitement revolves around teaching and building a better classroom and community.

"I was not used to volunteering. It is definitely time well spent and it was an eye opener. The psychology behind it for me was learning that there are people who are willing to give back to the community when they have no ulterior motive to do that and how that shapes them as a person. Volunteering makes you feel better about yourself."

For information about Collin College classes, visit www.collin.edu. •

photo provided by In-Sync Exotics

Become an In-Sync Volunteer

In-Sync Exotics is run almost entirely on volunteer labor and assistance is always welcome. If you would like to volunteer your time to help these magnificent animals, please contact our volunteer coordinator, Chemyn Reaney.

Age requirements:

- Age 13-15 may volunteer with a responsible adult and with parental consent.
- Age 16-17 must have parental consent.

In addition to volunteers helping with the day-to-day chores, we also need skilled volunteers to help us with special projects:

Skilled Volunteers:

- Welders
- Plumbers
- Electricians
- Landscapers
- Carpenters

Marketing Support Volunteers:

- Press Contacts
- Finding contributions
- Setting up corporate/business sponsors
- Designing fundraising materials
- Producing/printing fundraising materials
- Obtaining donations for stocking gift shop

Community Service

Community Service hours are available 7 days a week from 10:30 AM - 4:30 PM. Children ages 13-15 must be accompanied by a parent. Contact Vicky Keahey at 972-442-6888 to schedule hours.

Service Projects

We have many opportunities available for individuals and groups who wish to fulfill service project requirements or interests.

If your employer has a volunteer/grant program, please consider volunteering your time with In-Sync Exotics.

www.insyncexotics.org



- Offering your child an education built on discovery
- Curriculum centered on developing the "whole child"
- Exclusive, secluded
 playgrounds for privacy

Over 13 Years of Service to Firewheel Area Children 18 Months through Kindergarten Before & After School Programs for K-6th



2101 Firewheel Parkway in Garland

Volunteer CONNECTION

Community Emergency Response Team

by Craig Kelly - Wylie City Information Officer

A tornado roars through your neighborhood. At first you are relieved to find your home and family unscathed, but emerging from your house a different story unfolds--others in your neighborhood have not fared so well. Streets are impassable, blocked with debris – many homes are severely damaged. The odor of natural gas fills the air and Ms. Jones next door is screaming that

she is dying. Residents franticly call 911 but the lines are jammed or simply not working. Fire and police will not be able to respond for hours.

Groups of distressed and disoriented neighbors begin gathering in the streets. Your neighbors are looking for help and most are ready to accept direction. In an authoritative, yet calming voice, you explain the need to take care of their neighborhood first and provide assurance that fire and police are aware of the need and will eventually respond.

Dennis Gibbons, Bill Blanton, Mayor Eric

Blanton, Mayor Eric Hogue, Gilbert Tamez at National Night Out

Gathering and assessing information from the neighbors you determine the most serious problem is leaking natural gas. Jumping into action, you organize teams to move throughout the neighborhood and turn off the gas, check for injured people, and observe and record the extent of the damage. Attending to Ms. Jones, you re-assure her that her minor scrapes and cuts are not life threatening.

Your calm, swift, decisive action is a direct result of training received as a member of the Wylie Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

CERT is a volunteer organization with chapters throughout the country focused on emergency preparedness and disaster response techniques. Local government prepares for everyday emergencies, however, a large scale disaster could occur that may overwhelm the community's immediate response capability.

CERT teams support and work directly with local Public Safety officials in the event of community emergencies and train neighbors to be prepared for hazards that threaten their families and community. CERT training gives people the decision-making, organizational, and practical skills to offer immediate assistance to family members, neighbors, and associates while waiting for help.

Citizen volunteer Bill Blanton, Wylie Fire Marshal Steve Seddig and Wylie Fire-Rescue Captain Robert Ballard recognized



the potential of a CERT program and began laying the groundwork for Wylie in 2006. The first class of fifteen students graduated the CERT program in June 2008. Today, under the direction of Emergency Manager Debbie Buccino, CERT of Wylie consists of 45 members spread throughout the community, comprised of people from all walks of life, including retail managers, architects, nurses, engineers, lawyers, and electricians. Chances are there is a trained CERT member in your neighborhood.

The eight-week CERT trainic disaster response skills includ-

ing focuses on basic disaster response skills includ-

ing fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization and disaster medical operations. Prior to graduation, students put their training to the test during a simulated disaster exercise integrating fire, police and other local agencies. Future training is planned in the areas of damage assessment and shelter management.

Recently CERT volunteers teamed up with Wylie Fire-Rescue and high school students for a Smoke Detector Blitz. Volunteers visited more than 158 homes inspecting smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors, installing more than 98 detectors. CERT teams may also be found putting their planning and organi-

zational skills to work at local events or assisting fire-rescue and police in safety initiatives. $\ \bullet$

Go to www.citizencorps.gov/cert for more information on CERT.

Are you prepared in the event of a disaster? Join your local CERT team today.

CERT of Wylie - 972-442-8110

Jack Rickert and

about the PHI Air

Marlene Baptiste learn

Medical's capabilities.

Debbie Buccino, Emergency Management Coordinator debbie.buccino@wylietexas.gov

CERT of Sachse - 469-429-4791 cert@cityofsachse.com

CERT of Murphy - 972-468-4300 mlee@murphytx.org

photos provided by the City of Wylie



Dennis Gibbons, Meshach Baptiste and Chris Larson transport an accident victim during a disaster drill.

Lend a helping hand this holiday season.

Founded by the Wylie Ministerial Alliance, the Wylie **Christian Care Center** helps those who are down on their luck. They provide temporary help with food, clothes, rent, utilities, school supplies and household items. The Center receives no government assistance and is run by volunteer workers. The Center is supported by local churches, businesses, schools, civic organizations and individuals. The Center is always in need of canned meats, peanut butter, jelly, cereal, fruit and tomato products. In addition, the Center accepts monetary donations and hosts various fundraisers throughout the year. To donate food, contact the Christian Care Center at (972)442-4341.





Designed to assist families in the Wylie community during the holiday season, **Reach for a Star** is an outreach program sponsored by the City of Wylie and supported by the WISD, community churches, and local businesses and organizations. Pick up a star(s) at City Hall, Wal-Mart, Brookshires, Woodbridge Golf Club, American National Bank, Bank of America, Capital One, Chase Bank, Inwood National Bank or Texans Credit Union. Purchase new toys and drop them off by December 4th at Wylie Fire Administration (801-A South Highway 78) or the pick-up location of the star.

Equest provides therapeutic sports riding classes and hippotherapy to over 200 clients every week. After being the first therapeutic riding program in Texas founded in 1981, we have become one of the largest non-profit therapeutic riding centers in the state. We serve children and adults with all types of physical, mental and emotional disabilities. (972)412-1099 **www.equest.org**





Every day children victimized by abuse find their way to **Collin County Children's Advocacy Center**. When they arrive, they find caring professionals and volunteers who dedicate themselves to helping children through the nightmare of abuse. Families find support and resources. Most importantly, children and their families together find a place where healing begins. Collin County Children's Advocacy Center takes action to identify, protect, and improve the lives of abused and neglected children. (972)633-6600 www.cacplano.org

The Wylie **Meals on Wheels** program provides home delivered lunches to qualified senior citizens who are 60 years of age and older and live within the Wylie city limits or Wylie ISD boundaries. Eligibility is not based on income. Applications are accepted by telephone with a brief home visit for staff evaluation to determine eligibility. Meals on Wheels of Wylie is not a governmental agency and depends solely on the generosity of donors. Meal participants are encouraged to donate to the cost of their meals. To sign up for the Meals on Wheels program, to donate or to volunteer, call **(972)824-0001**.





The mission of the **Wylie ISD Education Foundation** is " to promote quality education by supporting enhancements through innovative programs and initiatives in the Wylie Independent School District." The Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. The purpose of the foundation is to solicit, manage, and distribute funds for enrichment purposes in programs not otherwise funded by the district. To date, the foundation has awarded over \$149,000 in grants to educators of Wylie ISD. **www.wylieisd.net/foundation**

The mission of **Special Olympics** Texas is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for people eight years of age and older with intellectual disabilities [mental retardation], giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in the sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community. **www.sotx.org**





In-Sync Exotics Wildlife Rescue & Educational Center, located in Wylie, is a non-profit organization dedicated to the rescue of exotic felines. We are home to 51 exotic cats and one coatimundi that have been rescued from abusive or neglectful situations or from owners who could no longer care for them. So as not to contribute to the overpopulation of captive felines, we do not buy, sell, trade or breed our cats. We just provide them with a safe, nurturing home for the remainder of their lives. We're open to the public Saturdays and Sundays, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.. Cost is a requested donation of \$10/adult, \$7/child. Children 5 and under are free. We also offer educational tours at group rates by appointment. All donations, including admission fee, are tax deductible. 972-442-6888 www.insyncexotics.com

Blackland Prairie Raptor Center is dedicated to environmental preservation through public education and the conservation of birds of prey and wildlife in their natural habitat. Named after the tallgrass prairie that once covered more than 23,500 square miles of Texas from the Red River to San Antonio, Blackland Prairie Raptor Center is a rehabilitation and conservation education organization, specializing in fostering better public understanding of the relationship between birds of prey and healthy ecosystems. Our dedicated group of volunteers has a combined total of over 30 years experience presenting raptor outreach programs as well as over 70 years of raptor rehabilitation experience. At this time, we are continuing our expansion of education programming and developing plans to build a permanent facility for both education and rehabilitation at Brockdale Park in Lucas. To learn more about our programs call 469-964-9696 or go to **www.bpraptorcenter.org**





Throwaway Ponies is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) program dedicated to the rescue and rehabilitation of horses. Our goal is to improve the quality of life for these horses and the successful retirement of working horses. Our passion is two-fold... 1. To provide a safe haven for horses who might be abused, neglected or possibly euthanized because of their age or physical condition. 2. To provide equine assisted therapy to women and children who have been physically, emotionally or sexually abused in order to build self confidence, self-esteem and physical strength. This is done through providing riding lessons and/or working with horses on the ground. Our mission is to provide a safe environment for people to grow emotionally and physically using equine assisted growth, learning and therapy. Contact us at 214-202-1390 or **www.throwawayponies.org**

Chamber CONNECTION

Welcome New Chamber Members!



www.wyliechamber.org 108-A West Marble St. Wylie, TX 75098 972-442-2804

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Savage Precision Fabrication., Inc. W.T. Gardner (972)429-0993 www.savage-precision.com

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Speedy Mart & Beverage Jessie Chhina (214) 621-8785

Best Western Wylie Inn Dellyn Lohmar (972) 429-1771 www.bestwestern.com

> Wylie Chamber of Commerce 2009 Citizen of the Year, John Mondy, presents Stacie Gooch with the 2010 Citizen of the Year award at the Chamber's Annual Awards Banquet held in January each year.



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Spend Less Now, Live It Up Later

A little "delayed gratification" may help you retire more comfortably

provided by Jal Dennis Group

Baby boomers are known for wanting more out of life – and for living life on their own terms. They also get a bad rap as a generation weaned on instant gratification – wanting it all now, wanting to have it both ways.

It is neither wise nor truthful to paint a generation with a broad brush. What we do know in 2010 is that more Americans than ever are poised to retire. In fact, 10,000 Americans will turn 65 each day during the next 18 years. Will their retirements match their expectations?

Are boomers in for a collective shock? Many boomers are used to affluence and expect creature comforts in retirement. Yet many may not understand how much money retirement will require. A 2010 study from the non-profit Employee Benefit Research Institute estimates that about half of "early" boomers (those aged 56-62) will face a retirement shortfall - someday, they will have inadequate income to pay medical costs and core retirement expenses. EBRI also estimates that 43.7% of "late" boomers (those aged 46-55) are likely to exhaust their retirement savings as well.

Investing aside, what about the way we spend? EBRI research director Jack VanDerhei told TheStreet.com that beyond federal policy decisions, "[what is] even more important is to identify which of those households still have time to modify their behavior to achieve retirement security, and how they need to proceed."

What is a need and what is a luxury? Now here is where it gets interesting. In a new survey of more than 1,000 boomers conducted by MainStay Investments, more than half the respondents identified "pet care" and "an internet connec-



tion" and "shopping for birthdays and special occasions" as basic needs. Almost half checked off "weekend getaways" and "professional hair cutting/coloring" as basic needs. Perhaps the definition of a "basic need" is expanding. Or perhaps we have gotten so used to these perks that we can't imagine living without them (and not spending money on them).

Boomers are necessarily growing more pragmatic. The MainStay survey results hint at a shift in their financial outlook. The survey found that 76% of boomers were willing to work longer and save more in pursuit of more retirement comfort.

Additionally, 40% of those surveyed said they will have to delay retirement in order to afford their desired lifestyle – and 47% said they would be willing to live in a smaller house to have more of the above luxuries/needs. A whopping 84% of respondents indicated they would be willing to allocate a portion of their assets so that they might have consistent lifelong income. However, just 52% of them were in contact with a financial consultant.

We can learn from our elders. Look at the sacrifices made by the "greatest generation". World War II demanded so much from Americans, not only in the theatres of combat but at home. For several years, new cars weren't manufactured, travel was discouraged, and food, clothing and gasoline were rationed. The entire economy was rearranged, and more than 40 million Americans had to start paying federal income tax.

This generation certainly understood delayed gratification. Yet with all that economic and political upheaval, its members collectively enjoyed the most comfortable retirement in American history

(and perhaps the history of the world).

Will we pay for today's lifestyle tomorrow? Financially, that is a risk we face. Many of us have not saved enough for retirement, and the financial markets have been especially volatile of late. So it only figures that spending less and saving more today could help us out tomorrow. Who knows - if some extra effort is put in now, we may end up with enough money to "live it up" later. •



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