



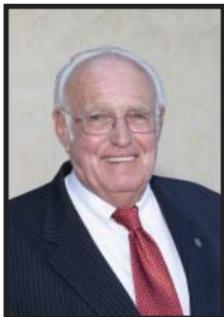
TREE CITY USA.



The

Lancaster Connection

Vision 2022: Lancaster is a proud vibrant city. We Celebrate Our Diversity and History, Preserve Our Natural Beauty and are the Economic Hub of South DFW Metroplex. Our Citizens Take Pride in Our City. The Lancaster Community is the Best Place to Live with Excellent Schools and Educational Opportunities and Attractive Corridors and Neighborhoods. Our Citizens Enjoy Convenient Living.



Back to the Future – Mayor Joe Tillotson’s Final State of the City Address

At the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce monthly luncheon on Thursday, January 17, 2008, Mayor Joe Tillotson delivered the 2008 State of the City address to a crowd of City employees, school, business and community leaders. Mayor Tillotson informed the attendants that this would be his last term as Mayor. The Mayor thanked the citizens, employees and staff for a wonderful ten years in office. The Mayor discussed our triumphant past, the realities of the present and the vision and direction planned for the future. Hard work, tough decisions, solid partnerships and dedicated leaders with a commitment to provide a community with excellent quality of life is what makes residents and businesses proud to call Lancaster home.

The Lancaster Vision 2020 Goals and Objectives was the outcome of the City Council’s strategic planning which began several years ago. As a result, the Council and Staff have road mapped a journey to become the best place to live with excellent schools and educational opportunities and attractive corridors and neighborhoods where our citizens enjoy convenient living. The future of our City will rely on projects such as Inland Port, BNSF Intermodal facility, mass transportation, air quality and annexation. We remain committed to a partnership role with our schools and businesses and failure is not an option.

As the community continues to grow, our vision can only be fulfilled if we continue to move forward and provide the services and quality of life amenities that will attract residents and businesses seeking the best place to live, learn, work and play.

Connecting with residents, neighborhoods and businesses.

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Lancaster Becomes an Inclusive Community!

The City of Lancaster joined many cities across the nation to build inclusive communities. In an effort led by the National League of Cities, the Partnership for Working Toward Inclusive Communities unites city leaders who are working to support such issues as racial justice and zoning. As a part of its commitment, Lancaster has passed a resolution reaffirming its pledge to promote such acts. The City also displays a sign on Houston School Road that serves as a daily reminder to its citizens that the city is diligently working towards building more inclusive communities.

City holiday closings

March 21 May 26



City of Lancaster
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Lancaster Connection | Election Info/Water Rates

Election Day – Saturday, May 10, 2008

For more information regarding the municipal election, please contact the City Secretary's office at (972) 218-1310.

A municipal election for the City of Lancaster will be held for the election of:

- Mayor
- Councilmember for District 2
- Councilmember for District 4
- Councilmember for District 5 *
- Councilmember for District 6

*Special Election to fill an unexpired term ending May 2010

Only legally qualified voters of Districts 2, 4, 5, and 6 shall be entitled to vote for the councilmember in their respective District. All illegally qualified voters of the City of Lancaster shall be entitled to vote for mayor. The last day to register to vote in the May 10, 2008 municipal election is April 10, 2008.

Early Voting

Will be conducted at the Lancaster Recreation Center at 1700 S. Veterans Memorial Pkwy, the LISD Administration Building at 422 S. Centre Avenue and other Dallas County branch locations on the dates and times below:

Monday, April 28, 2008 through Friday, May 2, 2008, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 3, 2008, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 4, 2008, 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Monday, May 5, 2008 through Tuesday, May 6, 2008, 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

During the early voting period, registered voters may vote at any Dallas County early voting location. A complete list of Dallas County early voting locations is available at www.dalcoelections.org

May 10, 2008 Election Day

On Election Day, voting will be conducted at 2 polling locations by precinct number from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. as noted below:

Precinct Number:

3800, 3801, 3802, 3803, 3804, 3805
Lancaster Recreation Center,
1700 S. Veterans Memorial Pkwy

3806, 3807, 3808, 3809, 3810
Lancaster Middle School,
822 W. Pleasant Run Rd.

NEED ASSISTANCE?

DO YOU KNOW WHERE TO CALL?



Airport	972-227-5721
Animal Control	972-218-1200
Atmos Energy (Gas)	800-460-3030
Building Inspections	972-218-1200
Cable (Time Warner)	972-445-5555
Chamber of Commerce	972-227-2579
City Hall	972-218-1300
Neighborhood Services (Code Compliance)	972-218-1200
Community House (Seniors)	972-227-2650
Constable Derick Evans	972-228-0006
Country View Golf Course	972-227-0995
County Health Department (Immun.)	214-819-2100
County Tax	214-653-7811
Dallas County Precinct 1	972-228-2272
Development Services	972-275-1701
Driver's License	469-272-9301
Economic Development Corporation	972-218-7036
Employment-City Job Line	972-218-1313
Fire (Non-emergency)	972-218-2600
Focus Daily (Newspaper)	972-223-9175
Police (Non-emergency)	972-218-2700
Housing	972-275-1750
Library	972-227-1080
LISD Administration	972-218-1400
Motor Vehicle Registration	214-653-7811
Municipal Court	972-218-1334
Outreach Center	972-227-0138
Parks & Recreation Center	972-218-3700
Planning & Zoning	972-275-1720
Post Office	800-275-8777
Public Works	972-275-1700
AT&T (Telephone Service)	800-464-7928
Today Newspaper	972-298-4211
TXU (Customer Service)	800-242-9113
Water Billing	972-218-1328

Lancaster Water and Sewer Rates Increase

The City of Lancaster is committed to keeping our residents informed. Dallas Water and Trinity River Authority (sewer), have substantially raised their rates over the past few years. This has resulted in an increase in rates. The minimum water bill for most customers will increase by \$1.74; the rate per 1000 gallons is not changing. Customers using more than 15,000 gallons will see a 25% surcharge for usage above that amount. The minimum sewer bill for most customers will increase by \$.76 and the sewer rate per 1000 gallons is increasing from \$3.79 to \$4.55. Winter averaging will still be used to calculate sewer bills. Your water usage for December, January, and February will determine your winter average. Our senior residents may receive a senior (65+) discount of \$2.50 for water and sewer in addition to the current storm water senior (65+) discount of \$2.50 and the senior (65+) refuse discount of \$.50. For additional information, please contact the Utility Billing Division at (972)218-1328.



Lancaster's New Police Chief

Lancaster City Council confirmed the appointment of Keith Humphrey as the new Chief of Police on Monday, January 28, 2008. City Council voted on the confirmation after recommendation from City Manager Rickey Childers. Chief Humphrey will serve as a member of the City's senior management team and report directly to the City Manager. With nearly 20 years in law enforcement, Humphrey holds a Master Peace Officers Certification and is a certified instructor for the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education (TCLEOSE). He served six years as a Fort Worth police officer before joining the Arlington Police Department in 1995. Before becoming Chief of Police for Lancaster, he served as Lieutenant for the City of Arlington as well as the Commander of the Criminal Support Division. Humphrey has a Bachelor of Business Administration from Texas A & M Commerce and he is currently pursuing his Masters of Business Administration. Keith Humphrey is married with three daughters.



Going on Vacation?



This is just a reminder to visit **YOUR Lancaster Police Department**, located at 1501 N. Dallas Ave, to fill out a **Vacation House Check Form** when you take your next vacation! Be prepared to provide the date of departure, return date, contact phone numbers and emergency contact information for a responsible person that can be reached in the event you are not available. Also be prepared to provide the description and license plate numbers of the vehicles left on the property along with any animals left at the location. You may also find helpful hints on how to protect your property by visiting our website at www.lancaster-tx.com.

Did You Know?

You must register your security alarm with the Police Department. To obtain your alarm permit application, you may visit our website at www.lancaster-tx.com. Click on Departments and scroll down to Police for more details. You may also contact the Police Department at (972)218-2700.



PUBLIC SAFETY ACADEMY



The Lancaster Police and Fire Department will be co-sponsoring two Public Safety Academy programs in 2008. This training program offered by YOUR Police and Fire Department engages members of the public and business community members to learn more about YOUR City's Public Safety Department. Attendees will be provided a course of instruction in Police and Fire Department operations that allows participants to obtain a hands-on understanding. If you are interested in participating in an upcoming program, please contact Tia Wagner at 972-218-2704.



Lancaster Housing Agency

A HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Angela Allen always wanted a home for her family. Not just another apartment, but a house with a front lawn and a backyard - something to call her own. A single mother with two growing children, Angela lived in apartments subsidized by the City of Lancaster's Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program since 1994. In September 2000, the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, which funds the Section 8 Program, issued new rules that allowed housing agencies to use funds to subsidize mortgage costs in an effort to provide homeownership opportunities to program participants. Several years later, Angela took advantage of this program and, together with help from the Dallas Habitat for Humanity organization, set about making her dreams of homeownership a reality.



With volunteers from all over the Dallas area, Angela's new home began to take shape in the parking lot of the Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration. Angela had to provide a minimum of 400 hours in sweat equity toward the construction of her home, as well as attend a series of homeownership counseling classes. "It's good to have help, but you have to help yourself and make the most of life", says Angela. "God has finally blessed us and allowed us to have our own home".

To participate in the Section 8 Homeownership Program, you must be a current Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program participant, meet minimum income guidelines, and be continuously employed for more than one year. For more information, contact Kim Pekofske at the Lancaster Housing Agency 972-275-1760, or visit our website at www.lancaster-tx.com. To qualify for assistance from Habitat for Humanity, you must meet certain additional requirements. For more information, please contact the Dallas Area Habitat for Humanity at 214-678-2300 or visit their website at: www.dallas-habitat.org.



(l-r) Kim Pekofske, Charnetta Sanders (Angela's daughter) and Angela Allen.

Planning 101

- ? What is Hardscape?** An element of landscaping that consists of structures (fountains, benches, trash receptacles), masonry work, woodwork, and other non-plant materials
- ? What is Softscape?** An element of landscaping that consists of plant materials (flowers, trees, shrubs). Softscape elements are complimented by hardscape elements.
- ? What are Pedestrian Amenities?** Items within an area that provide visually interesting and useful details (benches, public clocks, shade structures, textured pavement, public art, continuous sidewalks) that encourage strolling, window shopping or walking from one location to another.



Have you been to Historic Downtown Lancaster lately??

If the answer to the question above is no, jump in your car and make your way downtown immediately. Now when you get there you may think, nothing has changed; and you would be right. But take a mental picture of the area, the same will not be true within the next twelve months.



The City of Lancaster was awarded funds from TxDOT (Texas Department of Transportation) to provide pedestrian amenities for areas within Historic Downtown. These amenities would take the form of landscaping, both soft and hardscape. With the installation of these types of items along the streets within Downtown Lancaster, it will become a more inviting place for those wanting to visit the area. When the question is asked again, "Have you been to Historic Downtown Lancaster lately?" The answer will be, "I was there just yesterday".





ACCESS

YOUR VIP PASS
Admit One

Annual Membership

	Daily	Quarterly	Annually
Child (4yrs-15) (3 yrs & under free w/ adult)	\$5.00	\$35.00	\$150.00
Adult (4-12)	\$5.00	\$60.00	\$180.00
Seniors (55+)	\$5.00	\$40.00	\$150.00
Walkers Club (55+)		\$40.00	\$150.00
Family of Four		\$125.00	\$150.00
Addit. Family Member		\$25.00	\$50.00

Corporate Membership

	Agency	Individual
Corporate A (5-9)	\$125.00	\$100.00
Corporate B (10+)	\$300.00	\$100.00

Special Events in the Pool

Parents Night Out Gym and Swim
Ages 6-10
Friday, March 14, 2008
Games, Food & Swimming
Space is Limited
\$15/child

Family Dive In Movie
Bring your favorite float and relax...
Deck side seating also available.
Popcorn Provided.
Movie Title: TBA
Friday, May 23, 2008
6:00-9:00pm
\$5.00/person

Brush/Bulk Trash

In an effort to maintain voluntary compliance with keeping our community clean, we would like to remind residents of the brush/bulk collection rules:

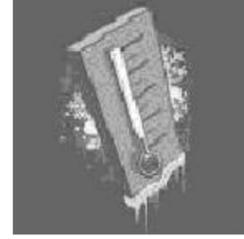
Brush/bulk will be collected during the following months only: February, April, June, August, October, and December.

- * Place your brush/bulk items on the curb (not the alley)
- * Brush/bulk cannot exceed 12 cubic yard max (6'x4'x16')
- * Waste must be placed at the curb or roadway by 7:00 a.m. on the Monday of your pick-up week. You may sit your trash out the Saturday or Sunday before your pick-up week. If you are unsure of your pick-up week, please call 972-218-1328 for your schedule.
- * No hazardous wastes (such as paint, batteries or chemicals) will be collected.
- * No tires will be collected.

If brush/bulk is present at any time other than your designated pick-up week, the waste will be tagged for removal. If not removed within three days, the waste will be removed and a charge will appear on your utility bill.



Winterize Your Home in 10 Easy Steps



Winterizing your home could save you a lot more money than you would think. Did you know that over 40% of your energy bill goes to heating or cooling? So here are 10 easy steps to winterize and save money while helping the environment as well:

1. Don't wait until winter. If you do most of these things between Labor Day and Halloween while the weather is still relatively nice, it makes it easier to get motivated and get done.
2. Keep your furnace's filter clean. This helps your furnace work more efficiently and helps keep your air fresher. It helps your A/C run more efficiently as well.
3. Clean your gutters. This keeps melting snow from seeping under shingles which helps your roof last longer.
4. Replace worn, cracked or torn weather-stripping around doors and windows. Keep the cold air out and the warm air in. Use a small piece of plastic wrap or an incense stick to find drafts. Use caulk to seal windows or you can get plastic sheeting and tape it around the windows.
5. Check your insulation, especially in your attic. Make sure it's thick enough.
6. Make sure your thermostat is efficient and has fresh batteries, if needed. You can replace an old thermostat with a new programmable unit that controls the temperature for you.
7. Set your thermostat lower: For every degree you lower your thermostat, you'll save about 3% on your heating bill.
8. If you have storm windows, install them before it snows. A little too early is better than putting them up when it's really cold outside.
9. Make sure you have an energy efficient furnace or central air unit. If your furnace is more than 10 or 15 years old, it's about time to replace it with a more efficient unit.



10. Install energy efficient blinds. Open the ones that face the south and east during the day to let in the sun's warmth then close them at night to keep the heat in.

Most of these cost saving measures are very inexpensive. If you can spend \$5 to save \$20, that's a very good return on your investment. For a little bit of your time and money, you will definitely reap the rewards for quite some time.

Urban Landscaping



While making your New Year resolutions, let's plan on making our homes beautiful. Simple tasks like trimming the hedges, pruning trees, and putting out spring bulbs are just a few landscaping ideas that can enhance your property. It is also a good time to make some changes like adding trees or shrubs.

Whether you have overseeded your lawn or let it go dormant it is very important to keep your lawn and the rest of your ornamental plants moist. Drying out is the number one cause of winter kill for many of our landscape plants in North Texas.

Mulching is an excellent way to keep all plants protected from winter temperatures that can cause damage or even kill them. There are many options when it comes to mulch – wood chips, newspaper, pine straw, etc. - just remember to get a thick enough blanket down that an insulation barrier will be created. This is usually accomplished with 3-6 inches of depth. Also, keep in mind that any mulch that has not been composted will require that you apply an extra nitrogen source. This is due to the fact that the microbes that break it down use nitrogen as an energy source.

This time of year is a good time to trim many species of trees & shrubs. Keep in mind if you have an early spring bloomer like Redbud or Pear wait and trim most of the material after they bloom. Early spring blooming trees and shrubs bloom on the growth/wood that came on the previous growing season. In other words, what has grown this year is where those buds are coming from. So, if you trim them now you may not see any spring color. Plants like crepe myrtle, althea, etc. should be trimmed in the winter because they bloom on new wood/growth.

Good luck and be safe while working on your trees & landscape.



Do's and Dont's In Choosing a Pet



- When choosing a pet the first thing that usually happens is many people act on impulse, never thinking that the adorable puppy or kitten will need housetraining, grooming, veterinary care, daily food, water and attention. (This is one reason shelters are full of unwanted pets).
- Pets are good for people. Studies have shown that pets can help lower blood pressure and reduce depression. But if you adopt a pet you aren't prepared to care for, or one that doesn't suit your lifestyle, you may end up with more stress than you bargained for.

A New Family Member

Consider these points when you add a pet to your family:

- Live in an apartment and work long hours? A fish, bird or cat may be your best choice.
- If you run daily a dog with lots of energy may be the best pet for you.
- Find the right breed for your personality and lifestyle.
- Check out breeders, judges and other pet owners. Visit a breeder and interact with individual puppies or kittens from the litter.
- Pay attention to the animals energy level, how it gets along with your children, and its overall appearance and attitude.

I've Decided, Now What?

- Choosing your own pet wisely is an important first step in making it part of your family. Now get ready for its arrival.
- Get the right gear: collars, leashes, proper identification, bowls, bedding, litter pan, and toys.
- Find the right food for your pet
- Pet-proof your home
- Choose a veterinarian and visit him or her as soon as possible for an overall health check
- Unless you plan to breed your pet, arrange to have it spayed or neutered as soon as it's old enough.

Consider This

- Financial committment
- Time commitment
- The family health
- Where you live
- Ages of children
- Local pet laws



Items To Have at Home

- Proper Identification
- Dishes
- Bedding or Crate
- Litter pan
- Toys
- Grooming Tools
- Appropriate Food

Annual Spring Trash Off

The Annual Lancaster Trash-Off will be held on April 4th & 5th, 2008. Dumpsters will be located at 200 S. Dallas (Town Square Parking Lot) and 1450 W. Pleasant Run (Minyards Parking Lot). Proof of residency is required to participate. Trash-off participants will be able to deposit bulk trash in these dumpsters. FREE TIRE AND BATTERY RECYCLING IS AVAILABLE & NO PAINT, OIL OR HAZARDOUS MATERIALS WILL BE ACCEPTED!

If you would like to volunteer to help clean up Lancaster, a registration booth will be located at 200 S. Dallas Ave. (Town Square Parking Lot). For more information, call Development Services at (972) 218-1200.



Calendar

February 2008

- 21 11:30 a.m. Chamber of Commerce Luncheon
- 21 12:00 p.m. Free Tax Asst. @ Library
- 21 5:00 p.m. Anime Club ages 8-14 @Library
- 21 6:00 p.m. Anime Club ages 15+@Library
- 21 7:00 p.m. Black History Program @ Library
- 22 7:00 p.m. Lancaster Outreach Gala @ Skyline Ranch
- 23 LISD 4th Annual Math Olympiad
- 25 7:00 p.m. City Council Meeting @ City Hall
- 26 10:00 a.m. Preschool Story Hour @ Library
- 26 7:00 p.m. Black History Program @ Library
- 26 7:00 p.m. LISD District Wide Black History Program
- 27 10:00 a.m. Daycare Story Hour @ Library
- 27 12:00 p.m. Free Tax Asst. @ Library

March 2008

- 3 7:00 p.m. LISD School Board Meeting
- 4 10:00 a.m. Preschool Story Hour @ Library
- 5 10:00 a.m. Daycare Story Hour @ Library
- 5 7:00 p.m. Lancaster Art Club @ Library
- 6 12:00 p.m. Free Tax Asst @ Library
- 8 2nd Saturday on the Square @ Towne Square Parking Lot
- 9 Daylight Savings Time Ends
- 10 6:00 p.m. Lancaster High School Open House
- 10 7:00 p.m. City Council Meeting @ City Hall
- 11 10:00 a.m. Preschool Story Hour @ Library
- 11 7:00 p.m. Lancaster Genealogical Society @ Library
- 11 6:00 p.m. Elsie Robertson Middle School Open House
- 12 10:00 a.m. Daycare Story Hour @ Library
- 12 7:00 p.m. Genealogical Society @ Library
- 13 12:00 p.m. Free Tax Asst. @ Library
- 13 6:00 p.m. Elementary Open House
- 15 2:00 p.m. Golden Egg Easter Hunt @ Rec Center
- 17-21 Spring Break Camp @ Rec Center
- 17-21 LISD Spring Break
- 18 10:00 a.m. Preschool Story Hour @ Library
- 19 10:00 a.m. Daycare Story Hour @ Library
- 20 12:00 p.m. Free Tax Asst. @ Library
- 20 5:00 p.m. Anime Club ages 8-14 @ Library
- 20 6:00 p.m. Anime Club ages 15+ @ Library
- 20 7:00 p.m. Teen Club @ Library
- 20 9:00 a.m. Best Southwest Health Fair @ Rec Center
- 21 Good Friday City Offices Closed
- 23 Easter
- 24 7:00 p.m. City Council Meeting @ City Hall
- 25 10:00 a.m. Preschool Story Hour @ Library
- 25 6:30 p.m. PTA Council Meeting
- 25 7:00 p.m. Lancaster @ the Meyerson
- 25 7:00 p.m. Friends of the Library@ Library
- 26 10:00 a.m. Daycare Story Hour @ Library
- 27 12:00 p.m. Free Tax Asst. @ Library
- 28-29 Best Southwest Bookfest 2008 in Cedar Hill

April 2008

- 1 10:00 a.m. Preschool Story Hour @ Library
- 1 7:00 p.m. Lancaster Art Club @ Library
- 2 10:00 a.m. Daycare Story Hour @ Library
- 3 12:00 p.m. Free Tax Asst. @ Library
- 4-5 Annual Spring Trash-Off
- 5 8:00 a.m. Lancaster Municipal Airport Fly-In & Chilli Cook-Off
- 5 2:00 p.m. Family Story Hour @ Library
- 8 10:00 a.m. Preschool Story Hour @ Library
- 8 7:00 p.m. Lancaster Genealogical Society @ Library
- 9 10:00 a.m. Daycare Story Hour @ Library
- 10 11:30 a.m. Chamber Luncheon @ Rec Center
- 10 12:00 p.m. Free Tax Asst. @ Library
- 12 7:00 a.m. Lancaster Country Bicycle Ride @ Towne Square.
- 14 7:00 p.m. City Council Meeting @ City Hall
- 15 10:00 a.m. Preschool Story Hour @ Library
- 16 10:00 a.m. Daycare Story Hour @ Library
- 17 5:00 p.m. Anime Club ages 8-14 @ Library
- 17 6:00 p.m. Anime Club ages 15+ @ Library
- 17 8:00 p.m. Teen Club Meeting @ Library
- 22 10:00 a.m. Preschool Story Hour @ Library
- 22 7:00 p.m. Friends of the Library @ Library
- 23 10:00 a.m. Daycare Story Hour @ Library
- 25 7:00 p.m. Chamber Gala @ Skyline Ranch
- 25 7:00 p.m. Drill Team Spring Show @ LHS Auditorium
- 26 9:00 a.m. LISD Educator Job Fair@ LHS Food Pavilion
- 26 Early Voting Begins
- 26 7:00 p.m. City Council Meeting @ City Hall
- 29 6:30 p.m. LISD Art Expo Reception



The City of Lancaster will host this years Best Southwest Employee Health Fair on Thursday, March 20, 2008, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Lancaster Recreation Center, located at 1700 Veterans Memorial Parkway. The event will be open to the public and will promote early detection, disease prevention and nutritional education.

Underwater Golden Easter Egg Hunt
When: Saturday, March 25, 2008
Time: 2:00 p.m-5:00 p.m.
Where: Lancaster Rec Center
1700 Veterans Memorial Pkwy.
Cost: FREE