



The

# Lancaster Connection

**WINTER  
2004**

Connecting with residents, neighborhoods and businesses.

**SCHOOL BOND ELECTION  
SET FOR  
FEBRUARY 7, 2004  
SEE PAGE 4**

## CITY COUNCIL SETS PRIORITIES

Lancaster Mayor, City Council, and Executive Team met in August 2003 for the annual strategic planning session with Lyle Sumek of Lyle Sumek Associates, Inc. These sessions are designed to review, evaluate and establish the vision, plan and execution of priorities, progress, and goals of the council and administration.

"We utilize these sessions as an opportunity to review past accomplishments and prepare a five-year plan for improving our services and operations" said Mayor Tillotson.

The priorities provide a guide and measurement tool for city administration to prepare, plan and carry out operational functions. From this session, Lancaster Vision 2020, Fiscal Policy Agenda, Major Projects, and Five-Year Goals were established. Continued on page 6.

## State of the City TOP PRIORITY IS TO KEEP LANCASTER MOVING

At the January 8, 2004 Lancaster Chamber of Commerce luncheon, Mayor Joe Tillotson delivered his annual State of the City address in which he informed members that Lancaster is definitely moving towards greater things.

With a commitment to enhancing the quality of life in Lancaster, Mayor Tillotson recognized the efforts of the City Council and staff as well as the community for their progressive approaches to growth and development.

"We have accomplished a lot this past year and with the quality staff we have in place, we will continue to accomplish even more," Mayor Tillotson stated. He cited the Mills Branch development, the widening of Beltline Road and the establishment of a Neighborhood Services Division as examples of how Lancaster is growing and developing higher standards to address that growth.

"It is not a task for just one person or entity," the Mayor added. "It is our responsibility to work together as team for the betterment of our community."

For a complete transcript of the State of the City Address, please check the City Council page on the City of Lancaster's web site at [www.ci.lancaster.tx.us](http://www.ci.lancaster.tx.us).

### INSIDE:

Bond Election	pg. 4-5
BSW Bookfest	pg. 7
City Council Goals	pg. 6
LISD Basketball	pg. 3
May Election	pg. 6
Meet City Council	pg. 2
Upcoming Events	pg. 8
Where to Call	pg. 8

### ARE YOU ELIGIBLE AND REGISTERED TO VOTE?

See details on page 4

### DID YOU KNOW?

Fats, oil and grease clog the Sewers. Sewage back ups and overflows are typically the result of grease build up which can cause property damage, environmental problems and other health hazards.



Property damage can result from sewage back ups leading to expensive clean up and plumbing repairs. As sewage over flows onto the streets, it enters the storm drain system...where it is then carried into our local streams.

Report sewer problems to the Water/Wastewater division at 972-227-6075 or after hours 972-227-2311.

City offices will be closed on Monday, January 19, 2004 in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday.



## 8th Annual Daddy-Daughter & 5th Annual Mother-Son Dance

Come enjoy refreshments, music and dancing as we celebrate Valentine's Day together on Saturday, February 14th. The fee is \$15 per couple including pictures and souvenir rose (\$5 for each additional child.) Advanced registration only.

Ages 4 - 7 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm  
Ages 8 - 12 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Lancaster Recreation Center  
1600 Veterans Memorial Pkwy.  
Call 972-227-1112 for information.

The City of Lancaster  
P.O. Box 940  
Lancaster, TX 75146

PRSRST STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
LANCASTER, TEXAS  
Permit No. 4

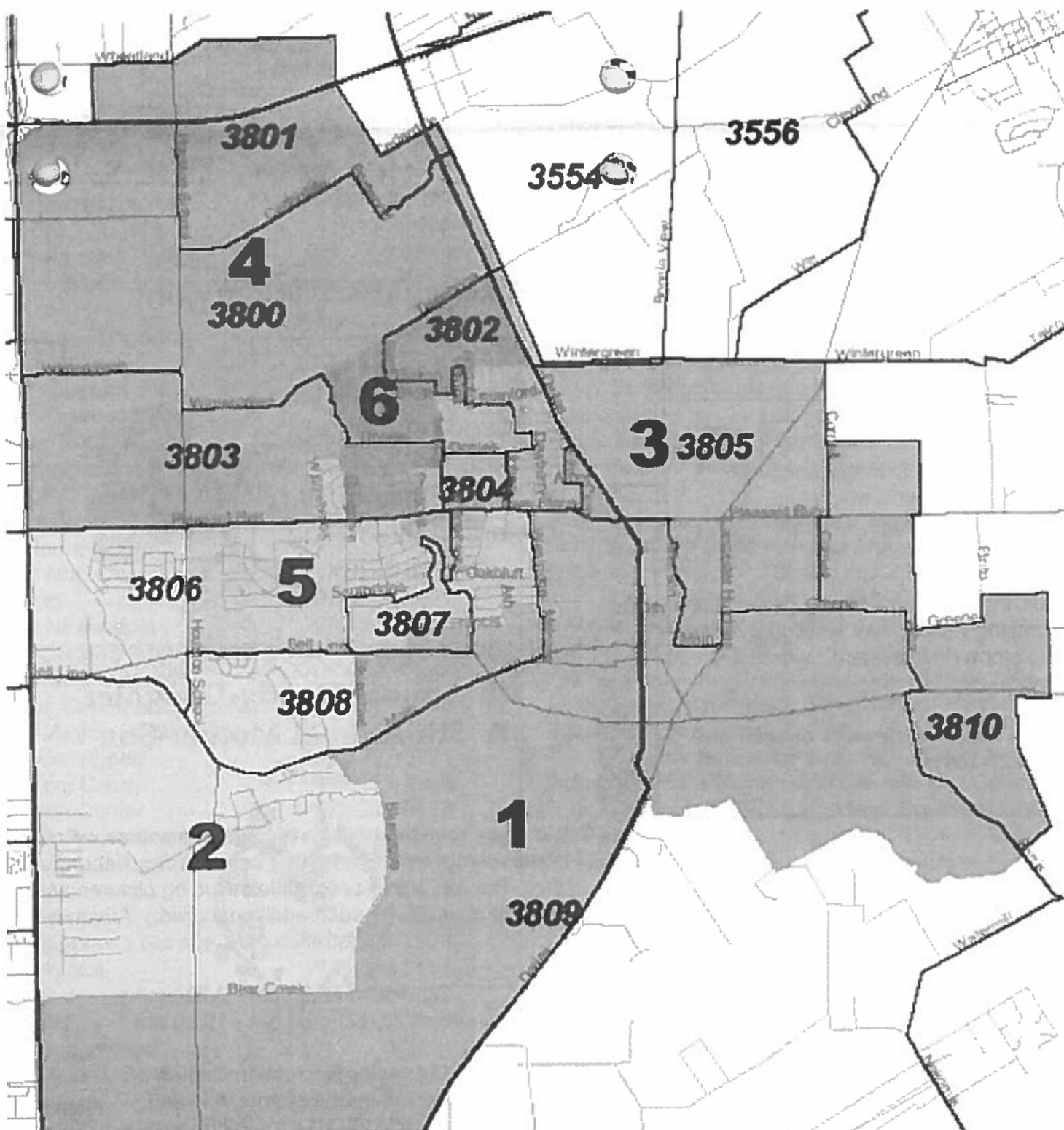
Postal Customer  
Lancaster, TX

## MEET YOUR MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL!

Lancaster is chartered as a Home Rule municipality and operates under the Council-Manager form of government. The City Council is comprised of six members who are elected by districts, and a Mayor who is elected at-large. Councilmembers are elected to two-year unlimited terms. In addition, the city has several advisory boards who are instrumental in the development of future goals, programs and facilities in Lancaster.

The City Council meets the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 211 N. Henry Street. Agendas for each City Council meeting are available three days prior to the meeting.

Your City Council is (from left to right): **Clyde Hairston - District 5** (serving his first term), **Susan Anderson - District 3** (serving her third term), **Joe Tillotson - Mayor** (serving his third term as Mayor), **Carol Strain-Burk - District 1** (serving her third term), **James O'Neal - Mayor Pro Tem District 2** (serving his third term), **Kimberly Lankford - District 6** (serving her first term) and **Tim Speaks - District 4** (serving his second term).



**MESSAGE FROM THE  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
SCHOOLS**

Larry Lewis, Ph.D.



Happy New Year to each and every family in Lancaster! As we begin the New Year we begin a time of renewal and re-dedication to our mission in LISD...Children First. As superintendent of schools, I want to take this time to explain our focus for the coming months in LISD.

First and foremost, we will focus with an even greater effort in the teaching of reading to all students. Reading is and always will be the defining skill for a successful citizen. Every student in LISD will read on or above grade level. To accomplish this goal we have a certified and highly qualified reading specialist at each campus, have assessed the reading level of EVERY student in LISD, and are targeting our reading instruction to each child's level of need. Through programs like Soar To Success, Junior Great Books, and SRA we see students making strides daily.

Second, we will continue to explore the needs of LISD families for quality and affordable after school care. This is a direct need parents have vocalized and we intend to fill that need. If you would like to know more about our after school plans and programs, contact our office and we will assist you.

Third, we must continue to build and revive relationships with individuals in our city. Through neighborhood walks, involvement in community events, and civic organizations my goal for our staff is to be a contributing and positive force throughout this community.

Finally, we know that we as a school district must form a tight and "unbreakable chain" in our leadership. The Board of Trustees and I are committed to working together as a high performance team...committed to working for unanimous votes in one accord for the children of Lancaster. Our Board will continue their training and team building efforts as they make decisions that are best for our children.

As we begin planning for the spring, many issues await our citizens. The Bond Election on Feb. 7th will be a pivotal moment in Lancaster history. The Board of Trustees and LISD Administrators encourage you to exercise your right to vote. Please vote Feb. 7th and continue to join us as we improve our schools.

**Medical Center at Lancaster  
HOSPITAL HEADLINES**

By Rob Smart

The year 2003 sure went by fast. Perhaps we were so busy we did not take stock of the time.

Our outpatient visits increased dramatically, as did the number of inpatients. We are seeing seven hundred more patients a month in the Emergency Department than even three years ago, yet our turn around time is better. We are able to get the patients in and out faster than before.

We have brought in twenty two new doctors over the past three years. Their talents and expertise have added greatly to our business. Our two medical office buildings are at full capacity. There is current discussion to possibly add a third building. In the year 2004 we are planning to add at least thirty additional beds to the facility. Next year the facility will also take delivery of a new Mammography unit and C.T. scanner. This will offer better services to all of our customers.

Three years ago, we had eighty-five open nursing positions causing us to use up to thirty contract nurses per day. Today there are only four open positions and agency nursing has not been used since February. This stability has afforded the medical facility greater consistency and enhanced quality of patient care.

We are truly fortunate to be located in Lancaster. It is a growing community and we are so glad to be able to serve its residents.

**LANCASTER TIGERS & LADY TIGERS  
BASKETBALL SCHEDULE**



**TIGERS**

Date	Opponent	Place	Teams	Times
01/09	*Gainesville	T	9, JV,V	5:30-6-7:30
01/16	*Corsicana	T	9, JV, V	5:00-6:30-8:00
01/20	*Terrell	H	9, JV,V	5:00-6:30-8:00
01/23	*Ennis	T	9, JV,V	5:00-6:30-8:00
01/27	*Red Oak	H	9, JV,V	5:00-6:30-8:00
01/30	*Mabank	T	9, JV,V	5:00-6:30-8:00
02/03	*Corsicana	H	9, JV,V	5:00-6:30-8:00
02/06	*Terrell	T	9, JV,V	5:00-6:30-8:00
02/10	*Ennis	H	9, JV,V	5:00-6:30-8:00
02/13	*Red Oak	T	9, JV,V	5:00-6:30-8:00
02/17	*Mabank	H	9, JV,V	5:00-6:30-8:00

**LADY TIGERS**

Date:	Opponent	Place	Teams	Time
01/09	*Mabank	T	9, JV,V	5:00, JV, V
01/13	*Red Oak	H	9, JV,V	5:00, JV,V
01/16	*Corsicana	H	9, JV,V	5:00, JV,V
01/20	*Terrell	T	9, JV,V	5:00, JV,V
01/23	*Ennis	H	9, JV,V	5:00, JV,V
01/27	*Red Oak	T	9, JV,V	5:00, JV,V
01/30	*Mabank	H	JV,V	5:00, JV,V
01/30	*Keller-Central	T	9	5:00
02/03	*Corsicana	T	9, JV,V	5:00, JV,V
02/06	*Terrell	H	9, JV,V	5:00, JV,V
02/10	*Ennis	T	9, JV,V	5:00, JV,V

\*Denotes District 16 AAAA Game

**ABOUT THE LANCASTER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
CORPORATION (LEDC)**

By Steve Filipowicz

The LEDC is the entity that administers the approximately \$500,000/year proceeds from the quarter-cent "local option" sales tax for funding economic development activities and projects within our city. It is managed by a five-member city council-appointed Board of Directors, local citizen volunteers who give of their time and experience to oversee LEDC's activities. The corporation has an Executive Director who reports to the Board and one additional full-time staff person.

The Directors look to build on the recent successes and encourage continued business expansion and recruitment. Our "targets" continue to be light manufacturing, logistics & distribution facilities, expanded retail opportunities, healthcare-related industries and services, and business service operations.

The LEDC had a banner year in partnership with our City Council, staff and local business community with the following projects:

- Refurbishment of Dallas Telco Building
- Brenntag Southwest 215,000 square foot Distribution facility and rail siding (under construction)
- CMOP 60,000 square foot expansion
- WNA Cups Illustrated 70,000 square foot expansion
- Refurbishment of Bailey Tool and Manufacturing (old Hyco plant)
- Lancaster Municipal Airport CIP
- Lancaster Municipal Airport 80,000 square foot new private hangar expansions
- Bienvenidos new location on I-35E service road

The LEDC Directors and staff are justifiably proud of the 2003 accomplishments and pledge to build on this record of success in 2004. For more information about the LEDC, please visit our website at [www.ledctexas.com](http://www.ledctexas.com).



Are you interested in organizing a Homeowners Association? For additional information please contact 972-218-1134 or visit our website at [www.ci.lancaster.tx.us](http://www.ci.lancaster.tx.us).

# CHILDREN

Dear Lancaster ISD Resident:

The Lancaster Independent School District Board of Trustees voted unanimously to call a school bond referendum election on Saturday, February 7, 2004. The \$110,000,000 referendum addresses the following areas:

- Enrollment growth
- Improvements and additions to aging facilities
- Advanced technology for all schools
- Completion of master plans for a new, comprehensive High School

The capital needs assessment for the 2003 referendum began in October 2003 and included an extensive review by three citizen advisory committees. The 40 residents involved in the process analyzed demographic information, studied building evaluations, visited facilities, and prepared recommendations for the School Board. In their reports, the committees prioritized facility projects into needs. This bond referendum will fund the top needs recommended by the citizen subcommittees and will take six to eight years to complete.

The Board of Trustees and the Administration appreciate the work of these individuals and the time that they spent becoming experts on LISD facilities. The following provides information about the 2004 bond referendum package, please take time to review.

District citizens who have additional questions about the bond referendum are encouraged to contact any Board member or the districts Administration. You will also find information on the district's website at [www.lancasterisd.org](http://www.lancasterisd.org). We stand ready to answer your questions. Please vote during early voting or on Saturday, February 7th.

Sincerely,

Larry Lewis, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

Nannette Vick  
President, Board of Trustees

## CITIZENS ASKED TO VOTE ON LAND ACQUISITION

The City of Lancaster will have a proposition on the February 7<sup>th</sup> ballot. Citizens will have the opportunity to decide whether or not designated park land should be utilized by the school district for construction of the new comprehensive high school, athletic facilities, stadium and auditorium complex.

If approved, the City and School District would enter a joint use facilities agreement that would provide for the city and community use of athletic fields and other recreational facilities.

The land located along Dallas Avenue and Wintergreen is approximately 100 acres.

Due to lack of financial resources the city would not be able to implement or plan for a park in the foreseeable near future. Therefore, the City Council will allow the voters to decide as to whether or not we have facilities and parks available for school and community use, or to allow the land to remain unimproved until such time that resources can be allocated to a park project.

City staff will coordinate with the Council, Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and the 4B Board to ensure that proper procedure is followed to transfer the property to the School District for school and recreational uses. The city will also coordinate with the School District to ensure that facilities constructed on the property allow for joint use by the community.

For additional information regarding the city proposition, please contact 972-227-2111. Remember to exercise your right to VOTE on February 7<sup>th</sup>.

## BOND ELECTION HIGHLIGHTS

New High School Complex with Athletic Facilities,  
Stadium and Auditorium-  
\$65 million

Renovate Lancaster Elsie Robertson High School  
for a second Middle School  
\$8 million

New Elementary School to Relocate Houston  
Elementary  
\$9 million

Renovations at Seven Remaining Campuses  
\$14 million

Upgrade Technology  
\$5 million

Renovate Rocky Crest and Alternative Education  
Facility  
\$1.5 million

Renovate facility on S. Centre Avenue for  
Administration  
\$3 million

Land Acquisition Funds  
\$2.5 million

Reserve Funds  
\$1.5 million

**Total Bond Package: \$110 million**

## BOND COMMITTEE

The Children First Bond Committee was composed of city and district staff, parents, community members and students. The committee visited all district facilities to determine needs and visited other districts and campuses to look at their facilities. The committee then completed a recommendation for the Bond to present to the School Board of Trustees.

## ARE YOU ELIGIBLE TO VOTE?

Voter registration applications must be received in the voter registrar's office or postmarked 30 days prior to an election for you to be eligible to vote in that election.

To be eligible to vote in Texas, you must:

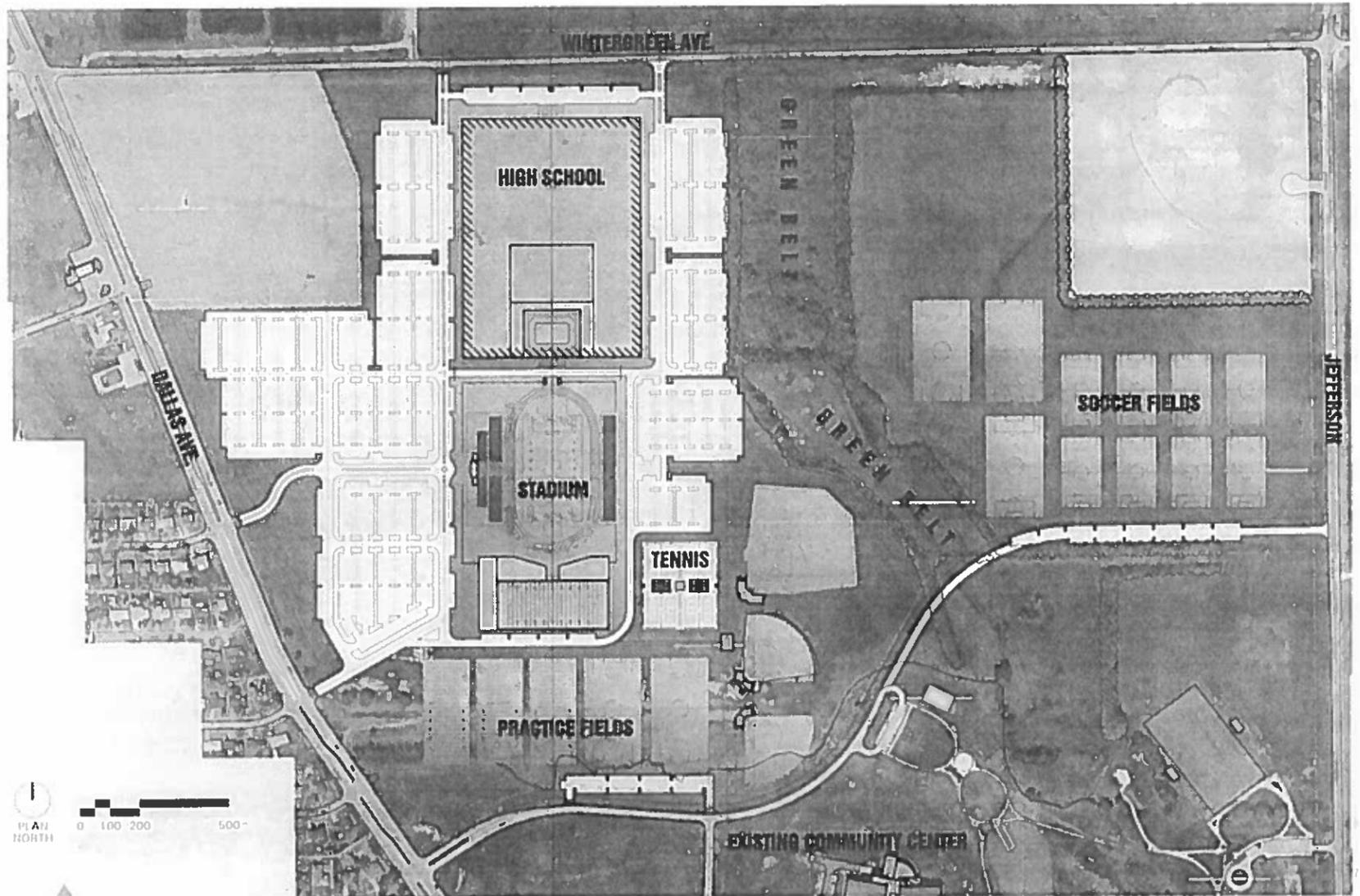
- Be a U.S. citizen;
- Be a resident of the county;
- Be 18 years of age;
- Not a convicted felon (unless sentence, probation and parole are completed);
- Not declared mentally incapacitated by a court of law.

Dallas County Elections Department  
2377 N. Stemmons; Suite 820  
Dallas, Texas 75207  
214-819-6300 or <http://dalcoelections.org>

Texas Secretary of State  
Voter Information Guide  
<http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/elections/voter/index.shtml>



# FIRST



## NEW LANCASTER I.S.D. HIGH SCHOOL COMPLEX



### EARLY VOTING

Lancaster ISD Administration Building  
1201 North Dallas Ave.  
Lancaster, TX 75146  
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

January 21 through January 23  
January 26 through February 3

### ELECTION DAY - GENERAL ELECTION

Saturday, February 7  
7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Lancaster High School  
822 West Pleasant Run  
Lancaster, TX 75146

Lancaster Parks & Recreation Center  
1600 Veterans Memorial Pkwy  
Lancaster, TX 75146

### MOBILE VOTING

January 22, 2004  
5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
West Main Elementary  
531 West Main  
Lancaster, TX 75146

January 22, 2004  
5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
Rosa Parks Millbrook  
630 Millbrook  
Lancaster, TX 75146

January 23, 2003  
5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
Lancaster Parks & Recreation  
1600 Veterans Memorial Pkwy  
Lancaster, TX 75146

January 27, 2004  
5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
Lancaster Intermediate  
1355 West Beltline  
Lancaster, TX 75146

January 27, 2004  
5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
High School (Gym Lobby)  
822 West Pleasant Run  
Lancaster, TX 75146

February 3, 2004  
5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
High School (Gym Lobby)  
822 West Pleasant Run  
Lancaster, TX 75146

February 3, 2004  
5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
Rolling Hills Elementary  
400 Rolling Hills Place  
Lancaster, TX 75146

February 3, 2004  
5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
Lancaster Junior High  
1109 West Main  
Lancaster, TX 75146

For additional information, please contact Dallas County Elections Department at 214-819-6300 or [www.dalcoelections.org](http://www.dalcoelections.org) or Lancaster ISD 972-227-4141 or [www.lancasterisd.org](http://www.lancasterisd.org).



*Lancaster*

## Policy Agenda 2003-2004

### TOP PRIORITY

Impact Fees: Water, Wastewater, Streets  
 Airport Development Strategy and Master Plan Update  
 Zoning Ordinance  
 I-20 Corridor Standards and Development Strategy  
 Subdivision Ordinance  
 Mills Branch Development and Overlay District

### HIGH PRIORITY

Commuter Rail and Mass Transit Strategy (Regional Approach)  
 CIP: Water/Wastewater  
 I-35 Redevelopment Strategy and Actions  
 Communications and Public Information Action Plan  
 Parks Plan: Implementation and Funding  
 City-Schools Partnering Strategy  
 Restaurant/Retail Attraction Strategy

### MODERATE PRIORITY

Grocery Store Attraction Strategy  
 Bear Creek Nature Park: Funding Master Plan  
 Code Compliance: Enhancements  
 Proactive City Promotion and Marketing Strategy  
 Community Safety Program Development  
 Streetscape Design Criteria – Gateways and Entrances  
 10 Mile Creek Basin Study  
 Alternative and New Revenue Study  
 Water Master Plan  
 Visual Improvement Project

# LANCASTER VISION 2020

LANCASTER is a PROUD CITY.  
 We *CELEBRATE OUR DIVERSITY AND HISTORY*  
 and *PRESERVE OUR NATURAL BEAUTY.*  
 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.*

LANCASTER CITY GOVERNMENT  
 is *FINANCIALLY SUSTAINABLE,*  
 and provides  
*EFFICIENT, CUSTOMER-FRIENDLY SERVICES.*  
 Our Citizens have *TRUST AND CONFIDENCE IN  
 CITY GOVERNMENT AND LEADERS.*

## FIVE YEAR GOALS

Financially Sound, Stable City Government

Higher Quality Development:  
 Residential and Commercial

Greater Community Unity and Pride

Becoming the Preferred Place to Live:  
 Professionals and Families

Improved City Infrastructure and Services

## Major Projects 2003-2004

Visitor Center/Downtown Beautification  
 Longhorn Drive Extension: Agreement  
 & Construction  
 I-20 Service Road: Construction  
 Orphan Road Policy  
 Loop 9: County Approval

Beltline Road: Widening Completion  
 City Hall Renovation  
 Houston School Road: Design  
 Senior Citizens Center (Dallas County)  
 Bear Creek Nature Park

LANCASTER CONNECTION is a quarterly publication produced by various staff of the City of Lancaster. It is designed to inform citizens about programs, services, policies and events. There is no cost to the resident for this publication and it is printed by Dallas Offset, Inc. If you have any suggestions, comments or concerns regarding this publication, please contact the following:

City of Lancaster  
 Community Relations  
 Post Office Box 940  
 Lancaster, Texas 75146  
<http://lancaster.city-crm.com>

### MAY ELECTION

This year's General Election will be on Saturday, May 15. City Council districts 2, 4 and 6 will be up for election along with the Mayor's seat. Residents wishing to vote in the May election have until April 15 to register. Early voting will be conducted April 28 through May 11. For more information, please contact the City Secretary's Office at 972-218-1145 or Dallas County Elections Administration at 214-637-7937 or visit their website at [www.dal-coelections.org](http://www.dal-coelections.org).

## NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES BECOMES NEW CITY DIVISION

In a continuing effort to enhance and strengthen the quality of life in the City of Lancaster, the city has combined its animal control services and code enforcement division to create a new division called Neighborhood Services.

While code enforcement itself is important and useful, City Manager Jim Landon said this combination of efforts will help increase pride in ownership and encourage greater neighborhood participation.

This division will be located in the Community Development Department and will continue to work closely with Building Inspections, Police and Fire to ensure efficient and effective enforcement of codes and ordinances. Kim Pekofske will serve as the Neighborhood Services Manager and will report to the Director of Community Development.

The new neighborhood vitality and integrity strategy includes:

New code enforcement initiatives that will provide for a more progressive program.

Neighborhood enhancement initiatives that will evaluate the assets and weaknesses of individual neighborhoods to develop new proactive enhancement strategies.

Neighborhood relations efforts that will foster improved neighborhood self-management and promote neighborhood success.

"I feel certain that this strategy will further strengthen our neighborhoods and make Lancaster a quality place to live," Pekofske said.



The Neighborhood Services Division is (l-r) Jeremy Waggoner, Kim Pekofske, Thomas Hail and Niki Atherton.

## WHAT WE'VE DONE TO KEEP LANCASTER BEAUTIFUL

By Ann Huey

Keep Lancaster Beautiful (KLB) was revived a little over a year ago to promote, maintain and educate through partnerships with citizens and organizations to preserve and improve the natural beauty and environment of Lancaster. KLB is a non-profit offshoot of Keep Texas Beautiful, a branch of Keep America Beautiful.

In the year that KLB has been in existence, its small, but determined core of volunteers, along with many other community-minded citizens, have accomplished an impressive list of environmental feats:

**Texas Trash-Off:** In April 2003, this state-wide trash pick-up/awareness event netted the following in Lancaster: 1000 tires were collected, thirty 30-yard containers were filled, two rear-load trucks were filled with trash, 15 miles of streets were cleaned of litter, and over 175 people volunteered many hours of hard, dirty work to make Trash-Off a success!

**City Hall Garden:** In May, KLB landscaped an area at City Hall, providing labor, plants and mulch for the space to beautify Council Chambers.

**Fourth of July Celebration and Second Saturday:** In July, KLB had a booth at both events to promote KLB projects, membership and fund-raising.

**Gotcha!** A program developed by the Texas Department of Highways that allows anyone to report people they see littering. KLB had a booth at the October Second Saturday on the Square to promote and hand out information. About 250 people were given information on how to report litterers.

**Texas Recycles Day:** On November 5, 2003, KLB volunteers visited West Main's 2nd grade classes to promote Texas Recycles Day, another state-wide event promoting recycling. Hand puppets were made by the children from sandwich bags and other materials that might otherwise be thrown away. Each 2nd grader received a travel litter bag, a pencil, and a bookmark with activities for recycling projects as well as information about what can be recycled and how to recycle and re-use instead of throwing away. KLB members assisted the children and provided the items to use in the project.

**GreenScene:** Each month, KLB publishes a short piece in *Lancaster Today*. It offers simple and practical tips for recycling and reusing, gives statistics and facts about various environmental issues, and promotes local events and activities organized by KLB.

Keep Lancaster Beautiful needs you! We have several exciting projects in the works and invite any and all residents who want to help make and Keep Lancaster Beautiful to join us! Meetings are held the second Thursday of each month at the Lancaster Pump Station, 1999 Jefferson Street, at 6:00 p.m.

## BOOKFEST TO BRING CULTURAL ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS TO BSW COMMUNITIES



The public libraries of Cedar Hill, DeSoto, Duncanville, Lancaster, in partnership with UNT/Dallas are planning a "Best Southwest Book Fest" to be held March 26 and 27 at the UNT campus on Hampton Road. The festival is patterned after the Texas Book Festival that has been held in Austin for the past 8 years. The Texas Book Festival welcomes and encourages communities to host a Texas Book Festival On the Road (TBFOTR) event to celebrate libraries, Texas authors, and congratulate the local libraries that have won a Texas Book Festival grant.

At the book festival, authors might share parts of their writings, tell of their experiences as writers, visit with their readers, sign their books, or even hold a workshop for attendees. The events will include Friday afternoon session for readers, authors, and aspiring authors and writers; a Friday night social to meet the authors; an all day Saturday series of activities for all ages with box lunches available for purchase; and a finale gala dinner (Glitzy Western attire) with three featured authors.

Paula LaRocque, a local author, will be doing a writing workshop. She wrote "Book on writing: the ultimate guide to writing well."

Saul Garza, Channel 4, has agreed to be the MC at the Saturday evening gala dinner.

Today Newspapers will be sponsoring a writing contest for area high school students. They will provide monetary prizes for the winners.

You can visit the Texas Book Festival web site [www.texasbookfestival.org](http://www.texasbookfestival.org) to find out more about the Austin Festival and hint of what we hope the Best Southwest Book Fest will become on March 26th and 27th, 2004.



### Free Library Card!!

This Coupon good for checkout of 2 books or 1 book & 1 video  
CHILDREN RECEIVE A PRIZE!!!

### -Temporary Library Card-

1600 Veterans Memorial Parkway  
Lancaster, TX 75134  
972-227-1080

[www.lancastertxlib.org](http://www.lancastertxlib.org)

redeemable by Lancaster residents only

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### January

9th	1:00 p.m.	Lancaster Library Book Club
10th	9:00 a.m.	Library Internet Training Classes
	10:00 a.m.	Kwanza & Togetherness Library story hour
12th	9:00 a.m.	Library Internet Training Classes
13th	10:00 a.m.	Making Music Library pre-school story hour
17th	9:00 a.m.	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Parade (contact 972-227-0619)
	10:00 a.m.	Making Music Library pre-school story hour
19th		City Offices Closed Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Observance
20th	10:00 a.m.	Families Working Together Library story hour
24th	9:00 a.m.	Library Internet Training Classes
	10:00 a.m.	Families Working Together Library story hour
26th	9:00 a.m.	Library Internet Training Classes
27th	10:00 a.m.	Best Friends & Good Times Library story hour
31st	10:00 a.m.	Best Friends & Good Times Library story hour

### February

National Observance of Black History Month		
2nd		Ground Hog Day
7th		ELECTION DAY!
	9:00 a.m.	Library Internet Training Classes
	2:00 p.m.	Daddy's Chair Jazz Band at Library
9th	9:00 a.m.	Library Internet Training Classes
13th	1:00 p.m.	Lancaster Library Book Club Meeting
14th	9:00 a.m.	Library Internet Training Classes
		Valentines Day
	10:00 a.m.	2nd Saturday on the Square (contact 972-227-2579)
16th		President's Day observed
	9:00 a.m.	Library Internet Training Classes
21st	9:00 a.m.	Library Internet Training Classes
	2:00 p.m.	Wilmer Hutchins Performing Arts at Library
23rd	9:00 a.m.	Library Internet Training Classes



### March

2nd		Texas Independence Day Observed (3/2/1836)
	10:00 a.m.	Blow Wind Blow Library story hour
6th	10:00 a.m.	Blow Wind Blow Library story hour
9th	10:00 a.m.	Budding Flowers and Funny Worms story hour
12th	1:00 p.m.	Lancaster Library Book Club meeting
13th		2nd Saturday on the Square (contact 972-227-2579)
	10:00 a.m.	Budding Flowers and Funny Worms story hour
16th	10:00 a.m.	Patrick and Pals story hour at Library
17th		St. Patrick's Day observed
20th	10:00 a.m.	Patrick and Pals story hour at Library
23rd	10:00 a.m.	Nursery Songs and Rhymes story hour at Library
27th	10:00 a.m.	Nursery Songs and Rhymes story hour at Library
30th	10:00 a.m.	Starry, Starry Nights and Days story hour

### April

2nd	1:00 p.m.	Annual Trash-Off (contact 972-218-1101)
3rd	8:00 a.m.	Annual Trash-Off
	10:00 a.m.	Eggtravaganza Parks & Recreation Egg Hunt
10th	10:00 a.m.	2nd Saturday on the Square (contact 972-227-2579)

#### CITY IMPROVES COMMUNICATION EFFORTS

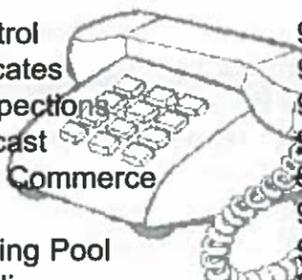
The City of Lancaster recently initiated its Citizen Relationship Management (CRM) software, a program that offers a means for citizens to make and track requests to the city via the website, by phone, walk-in, or mail. Service requests are entered into the system and can be tracked by a number of ways as to what action is taken and when action on the request is completed.

The program is easy to use, and allows staff to generate a variety of reports. If you would like to view the site or generate a request, you may visit <http://lancaster.city-crm.com>.

### NEED ASSISTANCE?

#### DO YOU KNOW WHERE TO CALL?

Animal Control	972-227-1342
Birth Certificates	972-227-8125
Building Inspections	972-218-1101
Cable Comcast	972-409-2273
Chamber of Commerce	972-227-2579
City Hall	972-227-2111
City Swimming Pool	972-227-7320
Code Compliance	972-218-1101
Seniors	972-227-2650
Constable Derick Evans	972-227-6015
Country View Golf Course	972-227-0995
Health Department (Immunizations)	214-819-2100
County Tax	214-653-7811
Driver's License	469-272-9301
Economic Development	972-218-7036
Employment (Job Line)	972-218-1140
Fire Non-emergency	972-227-1813
Police Non-emergency	972-227-4006
Housing	972-227-4991
Today Newspaper	972-298-4211
Library	972-227-1080
LISD Administration	972-227-4141
Medical Center at Lancaster	972-223-9600
Motor Vehicle Registration	214-653-7811
Municipal Airport	972-227-5721
Municipal Court	972-227-4900
Outreach Center	972-227-0138
Parks & Recreation Center	972-227-1112
Planning & Zoning	972-218-1101
Post Office	972-227-6089
Public Works	972-227-6075
SBC Telephone Service	800-464-7928
Trinity Waste	972-225-8151
TXU Customer Service	800-460-3030
Utility Billing	972-227-7941
Voter Registration (Elections)	214-637-7937
Water/Sewer	972-218-5927



### LANCASTER CHAMBER SETS 2004 AGENDA

Your Lancaster Chamber of Commerce is composed of businesses, individuals, organizations and churches whose main purpose is to make Lancaster a better place to do business, to live, and to educate our kids. Its formal mission statement is to "Actively Support, Promote and Attract Business to Better Serve the Greater Lancaster Area".

Rob Smart, CEO of Medical Center at Lancaster, is the 2004 Lancaster Chamber Chairman of the Board, which consists of 16 area member representatives. His emphasis or charge for the New Year is three-fold:

1. Build a Visitor's Center, which is already funded.
2. Create attractive entrance markers for our city.
3. Build community pride.

The 2004 Chamber Board adopted these initiatives as part of their 2004 Program of Work, which also includes four Divisions and committees:

**Membership – Vice Chair Melissa Huffman, Dallas Telco Federal Credit Union;** includes committees for Ambassadors, Luncheons, Membership Event, Website, 2004 Duffers Derby, and 2004 Gala Auction.

**Community Affairs – Vice Chair Ellen Clark, Town Square Realty;** includes Tourism and Visitors Center, Publicity, and "2nd Saturday on the Square" special events.

**Education – Vice Chair Jim Weaver, Weaver & Associates;** includes Texas Scholars Program, Scholarships, Partners in Education, and Lancaster Education Foundation.

**Government Affairs – Vice Chair Manuel Flores, Oncor Energy;** includes BREP Program, liaisons with City Council, North Texas Commission, Schools/Colleges, LEDC, and Best Southwest Partnership.

A staff consisting of President Joe Johnson, Mary Kinnard, Administrative Assistant, and Ann Reaves, Staff Assistant, will administer the 2004 Program of Work. For more information, or to join the Chamber, contact us at 972-227-2579, or go to [www.LancasterTX.org](http://www.LancasterTX.org).

#### CITY HALL FACELIFT

To improve the quality of customer service to citizens, Lancaster City Hall has a new look. Prior to the remodel, when a citizen walked into City Hall, there was a question of where to go? Now, with the new action center, one immediately has a sense of where to go for assistance.

Stop by City Hall for a visit!