



The

# an Caster Connection



CONNECTING WITH RESIDENTS, NEIGHBORHOODS AND BUSINESSES.

## CITY ELECTION SET FOR MAY 15, 2004

The 2004 City officers election will be held on Saturday, May 15, 2004. This year's slate of offices includes the office of the Mayor and Councilmembers to represent Districts 2, 4, and 6, plus two citywide local option propositions as ordered by Dallas County Commissioners' Court. The 78<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature moved the uniform election date to the third Saturday in May. However, House Bill 1 (78<sup>th</sup> Legislature, 3rd Called Session) provides that the uniform election date will revert back to the first Saturday in May starting in May 2005.

All registered voters in the City of Lancaster will have the opportunity to vote for a Mayoral candidate and on the two local option propositions. Registered voters residing in Districts 2, 4 and 6 will also have an opportunity to vote for their respective candidates. Anyone not currently registered to vote has until April 15 to register in order to cast a ballot in the May election. Voter registration cards may be obtained at City Hall or the Lancaster Public Library. For more information regarding voter registration, residents may contact the Dallas County Elections Department at 214-819-6389. For information on voting locations and early voting see page 2

### BEST SOUTHWEST CITIES 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL



CITY OF LANCASTER PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
MAY 21 & 22, 2004  
6:00 PM - 6:00 AM

#### HOPE LIGHTS THE WAY

When the sun goes down, hundreds of luminaria will light the way under the stars to remember those lost to cancer, those fighting cancer, and those who have fought cancer and won. This ceremony of light symbolizes the hope and perseverance with which we all continue to fight. **TEAMING UP FOR THE FIGHT** - Teams of participants will take turns walking or running around the community park pond during this 12 hour relay. Teams come from businesses, clubs, families, friends, hospitals, churches, schools, and service organizations. Be a part of a relay team and make a difference! For sponsorship opportunities and relay team information, please call the American Cancer Society at 214-421-1680 or the Lancaster Parks & Recreation Department at 972-227-6974.

#### Animal Shelter Hours

Monday - Friday 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm  
Saturday 9:00 am to 1:00 pm



The City of Lancaster  
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Lancaster, Texas 75146

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Lancaster, TX

### Holiday Closings

City offices will be closed for the following holiday observances:

Monday, May 31, 2004

Memorial Day

&

Monday, July 5, 2004

July 4th. Holiday



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## JUNETEENTH

### A CELEBRATION OF FREEDOM

#### MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

Sponsored by the cities of Cedar Hill, DeSoto, Duncanville & Lancaster

The cities of Cedar Hill, DeSoto, Dunanville and Lancaster have joined together honoring the cultural diversity of the Best Southwest area for the 1<sup>st</sup> Best Southwest Juneteenth Celebration to be held **Saturday, June 19, 2004** at the DeSoto Town Center located at 211 E. Pleasant Run Road in DeSoto.

There are opportunities for participation from all members of the community. Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration of the ending of slavery. Dating back to 1865, it was on June 19<sup>th</sup> that Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas with the news that the Civil War had ended and that all slaves were now free. This was two and one half years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation - which had become official on January 1, 1863. In subsequent years, African Americans celebrated Juneteenth with music, skits, barbecuing, and ethnic dress.

This event will incorporate the elements of celebrations from the past including a kick-off parade, an ethnic food cook-off, an essay writing and T-shirt design contest for students and lots of great entertainment throughout the day. We are organizing an ethnic fashion show and a small business expo for local business owners and vendors. There will also be children's activities, food and fun for the whole family. Another focus for the event will be to educate and inform festival goers of the history behind the celebration.

If you are interested in participating in the parade, essay, or t-shirt contest or as a performer or vendor, please contact the Community Relations Department at 972-218-1134 to obtain an application form. The essay topic is: **Celebrating our Heritage: Building a Sense of Family & Community**. The winning entry will receive a prize.

## Early Voting

Early voting will be held at the Lancaster Recreation Center, 1700 S. Veterans Memorial Parkway or any Dallas County early voting location on the following dates:

Wednesday, April 28 through Friday, April 30, 2004

8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Monday, May 3 through Friday, May 7, 2004

8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Saturday, May 8, 2004

8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Sunday, May 9, 2004

1 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Monday, May 10 through Tuesday, May 11, 2004

7 a.m. – 7 p.m.

## Election Day

On Election Day, May 15, 2004, voting will be conducted by precincts at the following polling locations from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. Please refer to your voter registration card for precinct number.

Precinct No.		Polling Location
3800	Houston Elementary	3100 N. Houston School Rd.
3801	Houston Elementary	3100 N. Houston School Rd.
3802	Pleasant Run Elementary	427 W. Pleasant Run Rd.
3803	Pleasant Run Elementary	427 W. Pleasant Run Rd.
3804	Pleasant Run Elementary	427 W. Pleasant Run Rd.
3805	Lancaster Recreation Center	1700 S. Veterans Memorial Pwy.
3806	Rosa Parks-Millbrook Elem.	630 Millbrook Drive
3807	Elise Robertson High School	822 W. Pleasant Run Rd.
3808	Elise Robertson High School	822 W. Pleasant Run Rd.
3809	Lancaster Recreation Center	1700 S. Veterans Memorial Pwy.
3810	Lancaster Recreation Center	1700 S. Veterans Memorial Pwy.

## Provisional Voting

An important change that voters need to be aware of is the implementation of provisional voting. Previously, if a voter was not on the voter registration list, they were able to vote a challenge ballot. However, challenge ballots have now been replaced by provisional ballots. Provisional voting is similar to the challenge process but the voter's ballot is not counted until after the voter's registration status has been verified by the early voting ballot board and county voter registrar. Following election day, provisional voters will be able to contact the elections office confidentially to find out whether the ballot was counted, and if not, the reason it was not counted. Provisional voters will be notified in writing regarding whether or not their ballot was counted.

Additional information regarding the upcoming City election may be obtained by contacting the City Secretary at 972-218-1112.

### **SAMPLE BALLOT** City of Lancaster General Election

**Mayor**  
\*\* Citywide\*\*  
Joe Tillotson  
Vic Buchanon

For member of Council, District No. 2  
\*\*Only registered voters residing in District 2\*\*  
C.R. "Dick" Headen  
Marvin Earle

For member of Council, District No. 4  
\*\*Only registered voters residing in District 4\*\*  
James Daniels  
Tim Speaks

For member of Council, District No. 6  
\*\*Only registered voters residing in District 6\*\*  
Kimberly K. Lankford

City of Lancaster  
PROPOSITION NO. 1

\*\* Citywide\*\*

"Shall the City of Lancaster permit the legal sale of mixed beverages in restaurants by Food and Beverage Certificate holders?"

Yes  No

PROPOSITION NO. 2

\*\* Citywide\*\*

"Shall the City of Lancaster permit the legal sale of all alcoholic beverages for off-premise consumption only?"

Yes  No

### **Volunteers needed for City Boards and Commissions**

Do you want to be more involved in your community? The City of Lancaster needs people who have a real interest in their community to serve on one of the City's boards and commissions. The City Council appoints volunteers to numerous boards and commissions to serve the City Council and their fellow citizens in an advisory capacity and/or in carrying out the functions reserved to them by City Code and State Statute. The following boards/commissions may have vacancies available:

**Airport Advisory Board**  
**Economic Development Corporation**  
**Golf Course Advisory Committee**  
**Historic Landmark Preservation Committee**  
**Housing Advisory and Appeals Board**  
**Human Relations Commission**  
**Library Advisory Board**  
**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board**  
**Planning and Zoning Commission**  
**Recreational Development Corporation**  
**Zoning Board of Adjustment**

Appointments to boards/commissions are made by the City Council in July. If you would like to apply to serve on a board or commission, please contact the City Secretary's office at 972-218-1112. You may also obtain an application on the City's web site at [www.ci.lancaster.tx.us](http://www.ci.lancaster.tx.us).

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

City of Lancaster  
Attn: Community Relations  
Post Office Box 940  
Lancaster, Texas 75146  
<http://lancaster.city-crm.com>  
972-218-1134

# Lancaster Chamber News



The Lancaster Chamber's 2004 Gala - aptly named "Viva Las Lancaster" - will rock and roll on April 24, 2004 at Lancaster's fabulous Recreation Center. We'll use the entire facility to host two shows of **Kraig Parker** and his **Royal Tribute Band**, celebrating 50 years of **Elvis**. He's coming to us directly from a successful Las Vegas run, and we're honored to have him here in Lancaster. Go to [www.LancasterTX.org](http://www.LancasterTX.org), and click on the flashing icon to go to his site. Move through his site for information, then select calendar of events and click on April 24, and you will be back to our booking page, where you can make reservations, select sponsor levels, and actually pay on line!

This 2004 Gala benefits both the Chamber and the Lancaster Education Foundation, and we expect this Gala to be the BEST ever held in the Best Southwest. You can even buy raffle tickets to win a trip to the fabulous Paris Resort and casino in Las Vegas, donated by Red Bird Travel Plus. So make your plans to join in on the fun, and get ready to enjoy a super fantastic night! **And please call 972-227-2579 if you need help with tickets or in selection a sponsor level.**

## LEDC helps keep Lancaster On the Move!

### In 2003, Lancaster experienced:

- Record residential growth (over 540 new housing starts with 6,000 more planned)
- Record industrial expansion ~ \$50 million (Brenntag Southwest, Swift, Bailey Tool & Mfg)
- An upgraded municipal bond rating (S&P "A")
- City-wide "Triple Freeport" now in effect
- Almost \$3 million in new improvements at Lancaster Airport

### 2004 will be even greater!

Lancaster has a pro quality-growth Mayor, Council and City Staff who are finding ways to say "Yes."

- Yes to a preferred alignment of Loop 9
- Yes to a comprehensive land use plan
- Yes to an updated and ambitious thoroughfare plan
- Yes to an I-20 traffic access plan developed with property owner input and extensive coordination with the Texas Department of Transportation

**Voters in Lancaster said "YES" to a \$110 million bond issue to invest in our public schools by an overwhelming 3 to 1 margin!**

Lancaster is committed to quality growth and further diversification of economic base. The LEDC is actively seeking additional economic development in the following sectors:

- Light manufacturing
- Expanded retail shopping & restaurant opportunities
- Healthcare-related industries and services
- Logistics and distribution facilities
- Back-office and business support operations

Take a closer look and see how you too can partner with us to Keep Lancaster *On the Move!*

## City's Finance Office Wins Award!

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) awarded the City of Lancaster with its Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for fiscal year 2002 and the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its fiscal year 2002-2003 budget.

The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting was given for the City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). This is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government entity and its management. The CAFR met the high standard of demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story in a user-friendly manner. This is the 14<sup>th</sup> year the City's Finance Department has received this award.

According to David Medanich, Senior Vice President of First Southwest Company, "receipt of this award gives the bond rating agencies and investors comfort because of the city's commitment to provide accurate and comprehensive financial information."

The Distinguished Budget Presentation Award reflects the commitment of the City's governing body and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting. In order to receive the budget award, the City had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. These guidelines are designed to assess how well an entity's budget serves as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide and a communications device. Budget documents must be rated "proficient" in all four categories in order to receive the award.

Since the inception of the GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards Program in 1984, approximately 900 entities have received the Award. Award recipients have pioneered efforts to improve the quality of budgeting and provide an excellent example for other governments throughout the nation.

## Library Job Center

The Dallas Morning News and Lancaster Veterans Memorial Library are sponsoring a new job center. You can find jobs and apply for many of the jobs on-line through the job center. The kiosk will give you a receipt for each application you send on-line. Job descriptions can be printed for those jobs you cannot apply for through the job center. It is located on the north wall near the information desk. Ask any librarian for help.

All activities are free to the public. Free library cards are available to Lancaster residents with proof of residency.

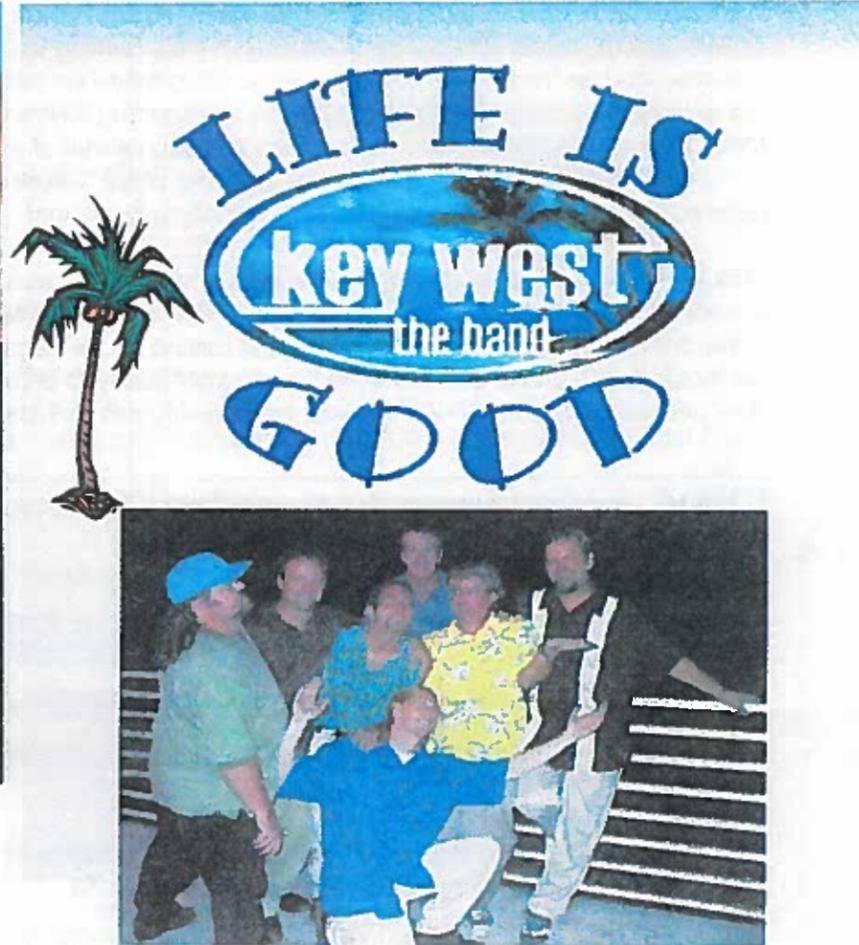
Lancaster Veterans Memorial Library  
 1600 Veterans Memorial Parkway  
 Lancaster, Texas 75134  
 For information call 972-227-1080 or [www.lancasterxlib.org](http://www.lancasterxlib.org)

### NEED ASSISTANCE? DO YOU KNOW WHERE TO CALL?

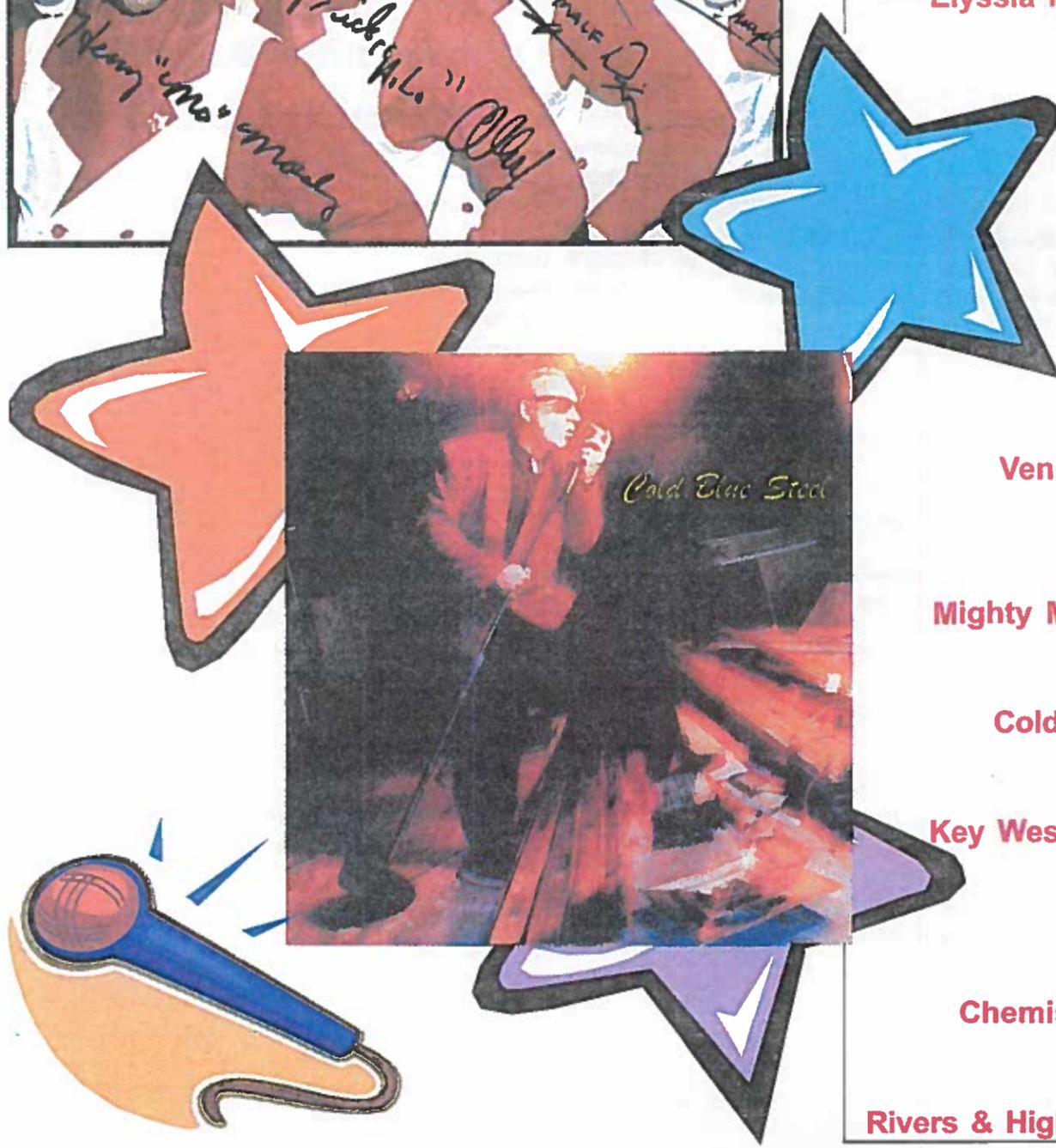
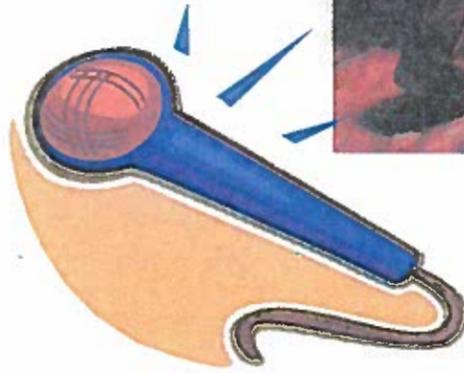
Animal Control	972-227-1342
Birth Certificates	972-227-8125
Building Inspections	972-218-1101
Cable (Comcast)	972-445-5555
Chamber of Commerce	972-227-2579
City Hall	972-227-2111
City Swimming Pool	972-227-7320
Neighborhood Services (Code Compliance)	972-218-1101
Community House (Seniors)	972-227-2650
Constable Derick Evans	972-227-6015
Country View Golf Course	972-227-0995
County Health Department (Immunizations)	214-819-2100
County Tax	214-653-7811
Driver's License	469-272-9301
Economic Development Corporation	972-218-7036
Employment - City Job Line	972-218-1140
Fire (Non-emergency)	972-227-1813
Police (Non-emergency)	972-227-4006
Housing	972-227-4991
Lancaster Municipal Airport	972-227-5721
Lancaster 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 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 (County Elections Dept)	214-637-7937
Water/Sewer	972-218-5927

The City of Lancaster's Parks and Recreation Department proudly presents **Musicfest 2004**. Enjoy a variety of music and entertainment every Thursday night beginning April 22nd through June 24th at Heritage Park Gazebo, 250 Dallas Ave. Concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. This year's line up has something for everyone. So, bring your blankets or lawn chairs and join us for "music under the stars" at **Musicfest 2004**. For information, please call 972-227-1112.

# Music Fest 2004



- April 22  
**Light Crust Dough Boys (Texas Swing)**
- April 29  
**Crawfish (Variety)**
- May 6  
**Elyssia Marie y Senal (Tejano)**
- May 13  
**The Pictures (Variety)**
- May 20  
**Venus (Rock/Variety)**
- May 27  
**Mighty Marvelous 4 (Motown)**
- June 3  
**Cold Blue Steel (R&B)**
- June 10  
**Key West (Jimmy Buffet/Party)**
- June 17  
**Chemistry (Dance/Variety)**
- June 24  
**Rivers & Highway 69 (County Western)**

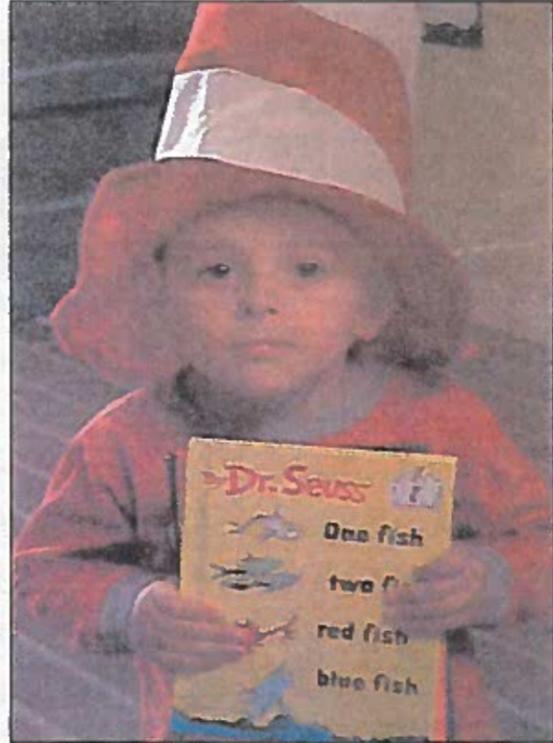




**Thank you for putting Children 1st!**



**Lancaster Intermediate Steppers perform at District Black History Program**



**Pleasant Run Student celebrates Dr. Seuss in Read Across America**



**High School Students Play at District Black History Program**



**FFA Project Show and Sale February 2004-Travis Wade/Grand Champion**

## City partners with Alpha Medical Center for Services

Alpha Medical Center opened its doors in July of 2003 with a commitment to providing quality and comprehensive Primary Health Care with compassion and convenience.

Alpha Medical Center offers a variety of services to provide a community of care. From Primary Care to Urgent Care, scheduled appointments or walk-ins. Alpha does it all.

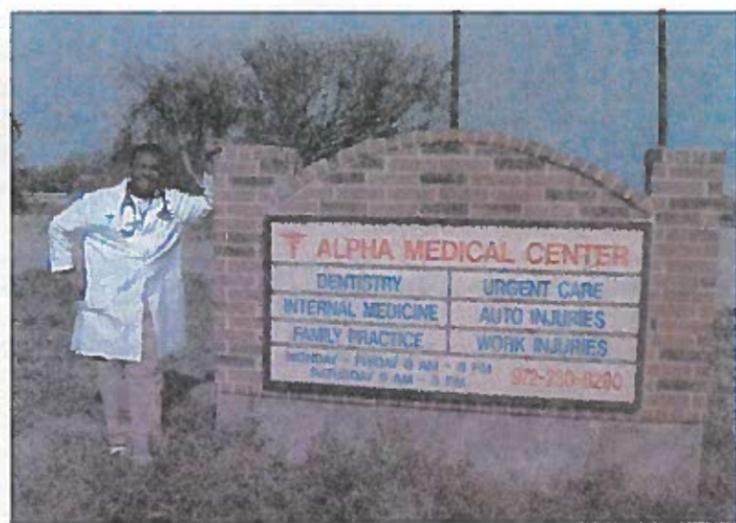
- |                     |                             |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Internal Medicine | Urgent Care                 |
| • Dentistry         | Auto Injuries               |
| • Podiatry          | Work Injuries               |
| • Physical Therapy  | Pharmacy                    |
| • Lab and X-Ray     | Free Transportation         |
| • Immunizations     | School and Sports Physicals |

Our service highlights include on sight lab and X-Ray, free transportation for those who need assistance and live within 15mile radius,walk-ins and extended hours, which allows flexibility for those who work, an on-site pharmacy that can take care all of your prescription needs.

For employers, we can assist with your pre/post employment needs, from drug screens, physicals, immunizations, to X-rays and work injuries.

Alpha Medical Center staff includes physicians who are board certified in internal medicine, podiatry, and dentistry. We also have a physician assistant, physical therapist, X-Ray and laboratory technician, as well as several nurses. We are blessed to have experienced and dedicated clinical and administrative staff that is well prepared to welcome and treat you the way you deserve.

We participate in most major insurance plans including Medicare. For additional information or to schedule an appointment, please call our office at 972-230-8290 or e-mail [info@alphamedicalcenter.com](mailto:info@alphamedicalcenter.com).



The City of Lancaster recently evaluated their medical services for pre-employment screenings and work related injuries. After reviewing proposals from two medical providers, City staff selected Alpha Medical, a new local clinic on Beltline Road, as their new provider. City staff also visited the facility where they received a guided tour by Dr. Austin Ogwu, (pictured above) head physician and president/CEO of Alpha Medical. Alpha Medical provides extended office hours until 8:00 p.m. dailly, is open on Saturday, has an on-site pharmacy and provides van service within a 15 mile radius of the facility. The City will experience a cost savings in changing service providers.

The City looks forward to working with Dr. Ogwu and his staff at Alpha Medical.

# Focus on Public Service thru Public Works...

The Public Works department provides management, supervision and financial review of the Water, Wastewater, Storm Water and Street divisions. Staff prepares and inspects all construction work, administers engineering design contracts for all Public Works division projects, reviews all engineering plans, plats, subdivision plats, and site plans, enforces flood plain regulations and updates city base maps. In addition, the Public Works Department monitors progress on all capital improvement projects and provides technical assistance to other City departments, City Council, and various boards. The Department's objectives are:

- Monitor and control construction and maintenance costs of capital improvements projects
- Update Public Works information pertaining to plans, guidelines, and specifications
- Improve drainage throughout the City
- Improve condition of deteriorating streets
- Increase public education of Public Work programs
- Develop additional training programs for employees
- Reduce solid waste that is shipped to landfills

## Reducing Inflow & Infiltration

The Water Department performed inspections of property line cleanouts in various City of Lancaster neighborhoods in an attempt to prevent increased costs to customers from storm water entering the sanitary sewer system.

Storm water run-off entering the sanitary sewer system increases cost due to volume charges paid to treat the run-off along with normal sewage. The added run-off also accentuates the possibilities of stoppages by overloading the system. The cost is then passed to all customers in the form of increased monthly charges. Residents with clean-out blockages are notified and requested to make necessary repairs in order to prevent overflows. Compliance with request for repairs helps keep utility cost down for everyone.

## Fats Oils and Grease

Sewage back ups and overflows are typically the result of grease build up. Fats, oil, and grease enter into the sewer system from commercial food preparation establishments and private residences. Build-up causes property damage, environmental problems, and other health hazards. Besides the costly maintenance and public safety issues, sewer stoppages and over flows could result in severe fines from State and federal regulatory agencies.

Mold is a by-product of cooking and is usually found in such things as:

- Food Scraps
- Meat Fats
- Lard
- Cooking Oil
- Butter or Margarine
- Baking Goods
- Sauces
- Dairy Products

## Proper Disposal Methods:

- Scrape grease and food scraps from plates, pots, pans, into a trash can for disposal.
- Do not put grease and scraps down the garbage disposal. Pour grease into a container and dispose of it in the trash.
- Do not pour grease into kitchen sinks, floor drains or toilets.
- Be cautious of chemicals or additives that claim to dissolve grease. Some simply pass grease down pipes where it can clog lines further down stream.

Report sewer problems to the City of Lancaster Water and Wastewater Division at:

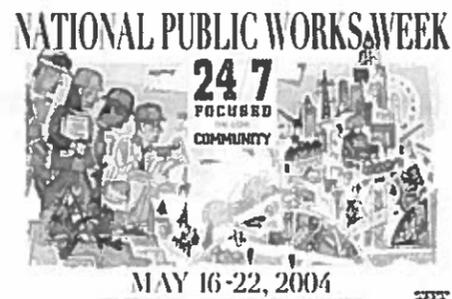
Monday-Friday 8:00am to 5:00 pm 972-227-6075  
After hours and weekends 972-227-2311

## National Public Works Week: May 16-22

National Public Works Week (NPWW) celebrates the tens of thousands of men and women in North America who provide and maintain the infrastructure and services collectively known as public works.

Instituted as a public education campaign by the American Public Works Association (APWA) in 1960, NPWW calls attention to the importance of public works in community life. The week seeks to enhance the prestige of the often-unsung heroes of our society—the professionals who serve the public good every day with quiet dedication.

National Public Works Week is observed each year during the third full week of May. NPWW and APWA seeks public's public works increase public works are dedicated quality of life future



Through other efforts, to raise the awareness of issues and to confidence in employees who to improving the for present and generations.

## 2004 Street Overlays & Reconstruction

The following streets are scheduled for overlay or reconstruction in the Spring and Summer of 2004. Prior to construction start, you may receive a notice requesting that your car is not parked on the street to allow crews to perform their work. Your cooperation is appreciated and necessary for the work to be performed. (Subject to weather delays, street work is scheduled for completion in August 2004). These projects are a cooperative effort between Dallas County and the City of Lancaster.

Street	From	To
Donlee	Dewberry	Rogers
Aspen	Elm	Dewberry
Elkins	Cedardale	Taylor
Verona	Wintergreen	end of street
Cedadale	Dallas Ave.	Houston School
Rae	Westridge	Ash
Wayne Lee	Westridge	end of street
Sunny Meadows	Wintergreen	Bayport
Sunny Meadows	Bayport	Donlee
Dewberry	Arbor	Colgate
Elm	W. Main	Pleasant Run
Gerry	Telephone	Balkan
Everton	Telephone	Balkan
Bluegrove	W. Main	Bear Creek
Ames	Houston School	Wintergreen

## Do you suspect that you have a leak?

Leaks are not always visible and water can pass into a void in the ground and remain undetected. The first sign of a possible leak is most likely noticed as an increase in usage on the water utility bill.

The customer can verify if there is a leak by doing or noticing the following:

- Turn off all fixtures in the residence and then check the water meter for movement. There is a leak indicator either a sweep hand or a rotary wheel on all meters. If everything is off and there are no leaks, the meter will not show movement.
- If there is movement on the meter, the customer can pin point the source of the leak by isolating each fixture one by one until the movement on the meter stops.
- In most cases, the culprit is a leaking toilet. Thousands of gallons of wasted water can pass through a leaking toilet per month and go undetected because the water goes straight down the sewer.



## I-35 Update

From I-20 to Parkerville Road

Work is progressing on the I-35 project towards the final completion date of January 2005. Construction of the new southbound bridge at Pleasant Run is scheduled to be completed October 2004. The southbound bridges at Wintergreen and Daniieldale are scheduled for completion May 2004. A 66" waterline at Daniieldale is being relocated by Dallas Water Utilities.



This information is provided by TxDOT. All completion dates are estimates and subject to weather conditions. If you have any questions regarding these projects, you are welcome to attend the next TxDOT update meeting scheduled for 9:00 am July 7, 2004 at the Lancaster Municipal Center, 211 N. Henry St.

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) in conjunction with Zachry Construction Corporation (ZCC) will be closing the eastbound travel lanes of Beltline Road under IH 35E beginning March 24, 2004. Traffic will be detoured south along the frontage road to Parkerville Road where it will be directed under the freeway to the northbound frontage road. A temporary turn-around will be in place to facilitate this traffic movement. The detour is expected to be in place until April 21, 2004 allowing the construction of key bridge and retaining wall components for the IH 35E/Beltline Road interchange.

TxDOT and ZCC are making a concerted effort to accelerate the completion of the IH 35E project through DeSoto/Lancaster, and we appreciate everyone's patience as we enter into these last phases of construction. Drivers are reminded to be aware of construction work zones and to carefully observe all traffic control devices.

## FAQ

### Who fixes street lights and how do I get one repaired?

Oncor (formerly TXU) fixes broken and burned out street lights. To report street light outages directly to Oncor, call 1-888-313-4747 or visit their website at <http://www.oncorgroup.com/community/streetlights/default.asp>.

### When will my street be reconstructed?

The City of Lancaster grades streets once a year on a scale of A - F to determine which streets will be overlaid or reconstructed each year. This year \$1.2 million was budgeted for street reconstruction which allowed for the street reconstruction detailed on page 6.

### Who fixes signal lights?

The City of Lancaster maintains all signal lights except for those located along I-35, I-20, and Dallas Avenue (SH 342). The Texas Department of Transportation should be notified for repair to these signal lights at 972-263-1387.

## LANCASTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

Proudly Protecting and Serving Our Community

## PERSONAL AND HOME SECURITY SURVEY



The Lancaster Police Department through the Problem Oriented Police (POP) Team will visit your home and conduct a security survey. Upon completion of the survey you will receive documentation from the department that may qualify you for a discount on your homeowners insurance. To schedule an appointment or obtain additional information, you may contact the POP Team at 972-218-1031.

Emergency 9-1-1  
Non-Emergency 972-227-2311  
Business 972-227-4006

## Fire Summer Safety Program



### Tips to make Your Summer Both Fun and Safe

Can you believe how quickly the summer months are approaching? Summer and fun are supposed to go hand-in-hand, but did you know that more of our children are hurt during the months of June, July, and August than at any other time during the year? Here are a few tips to keep our children from becoming "one of the statistics":



#### Cars

Always wear your seatbelt and make sure your child is buckled up. If a child refuses to wear their seatbelt (or get into their safety seat), the car shouldn't move. This is NOT an argument the child should win. Most accidents occur within 20 miles of home. NEVER leave a child unattended in a car for ANY reason or length of time. From January-September 2003, 42 infants and children died from hyperthermia after being left in cars. Even when the temperature outside is a mild 70 degrees, the temperature in the enclosed car can skyrocket to 120 degrees! It is against Texas Law to leave a child alone in a vehicle, no matter how short the length of time.



#### Water Safety

Summer also brings thoughts of a cool dip in a pool or lake. NEVER leave a child alone in or near the water, even for a second. Don't rely on "blow-up" swimming aids. Use an approved life vest. Best of all, make sure everyone knows how to swim. Check into the classes offered for all ages and skill levels at the Lancaster Recreation Center. But remember, just because a person can swim, doesn't mean they can't get into trouble in the water. ALWAYS swim with a buddy.



#### Helmets

Comfortable, properly fitting helmets are a MUST when riding a bicycle, scooter, or using in-line skates (as is other safety gear such as pads). A properly worn helmet has been shown to reduce the risk of head injury by as much as 85%! A helmet should sit level, on top of the head, with the safety strap fastened. Inexpensive, approved helmets can be purchased at Wal-Mart and Toys-R-Us, as well as many other retailers.



#### Smoke Detectors

CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS, CHANGE YOUR BATTERIES. Test and clean your smoke detector once a month. If your alarm "chirps", you have a low battery. Replace smoke detectors every 10 years. Never "borrow" a battery from a smoke detector. For some great tips on Smoke detector placement and fire safety in the home, please refer to the website: [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org). A working smoke detector CAN save lives!

There are so many topics that can and need to be covered for summer safety. For more information on these topics and many others, please refer to some of our favorite websites: [www.kidsandcars.org](http://www.kidsandcars.org), [www.kidsncars.org](http://www.kidsncars.org), [www.4rkidssake.org](http://www.4rkidssake.org), [www.aap.org](http://www.aap.org), [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org), [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov), and [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org).

## I am Your...

### Animal Control Officer

I am your **Animal Control Officer**. I am not the dreaded "dog catcher" or the "murderer" you call me. I'm not the one who allows your pet to roam the streets, to contract diseases from other free-roaming animals, to be hit by passing motorists or poisoned by rotting garbage. I am the one who must look into those sick, pain-glazed eyes, try to remove the animal without causing it further pain and then humanely "put it to sleep" to put an end to its suffering.

I'm not the one who allows your pets to breed, then dumps the unwanted puppies and kittens on roadsides and in shelters. I'm the one who must find the tiny animals before they die of starvation, exposure or disease and as an act of mercy, exterminate them.

It hurts me to be forced to kill hundreds of thousands of animals each year, but because of your irresponsibility, I have no choice.

I'm not the one who abandons unwanted animals on farm roads, telling myself some friendly farmer will surely take them in and give them a home. But I am the one who picks up the frightened animal who waits in vain for its beloved master, wondering why it has been abandoned. I am the one who must help that friendly farmer trap, tranquilize or kill that animal because it has begun to roam in packs with other abandoned hungry animals, killing livestock, fowl and game.

I am not the one who breeds and fights dogs in the name of "sport." But I'm the one who fights the breeders and participants, and must pick up the dead and dying animals that have been left behind.

I'm not the one who refuses to spend time and money to keep up regular inoculations that all pets require. But I am the one who must pick up the sick animal that is dying of a preventable disease.

So remember, the next time your child is bitten by a stray dog, your trash is dumped and scattered, your pet is lost, stolen, poisoned or hit by a car, it is the **Animal Control Officer** you call - not the "dog catcher."

The next time your pet is picked up, or you are cited for neglecting or abusing it, remember that I am only trying to get you to fulfil your responsibility to your pet, your neighbor and yourself.

Do not scorn me. Respect me, for I am the product of your irresponsibility. I love animals, and I care.

*This letter was brought to you by the City of Lancaster Neighborhood Services Department. For information on vaccinations, and city requirements about your pet please contact the Neighborhood Services Department at 972-218-1101.*

## 2004 Trash-Off Poster Contest Winner



- Third Place** Yadira Leos - Mrs. Love's Classroom
- Fourth Place** Marco Delgado - Mrs. Freeman's Classroom
- Second Place** Jazmine Reyes - Ms. Auerbach's Classroom
- First Place** Maria Gonzalez - Ms. Auerbach's Classroom
- Fifth Place** Maya Walton - Mrs. Love's Classroom

This year as part of Lancaster's litter awareness program, the City of Lancaster and Keep Lancaster Beautiful sponsored a poster contest. The West Main second grade classes designed posters on how they keep Lancaster beautiful. Winning posters were displayed at City Hall from March 22nd through April 5th.

## Litter Facts

One billion pieces of litter accumulate on Texas roadsides annually. The most frequently littered items are:

Food packaging (food wrappers, utensils)	20%
Household/personal (cardboard, tissue)	19%
Tobacco (cigarette butts, packaging, snuff cans)	19%
Non-alcoholic beverage cups and cans	16%
Alcoholic beverage cups and cans	8%

Seventy percent of littering occurs while driving. Texans who eat fast food in their vehicles are more than three times as likely to be a gross litterbug (those who toss large items like soda cans) and about twice as likely to be a micro litterbug (those who discard small items like cigarette butts).

## Help Beat the Bite!

As temperatures warm and spring rains begin, it's time to think about Beating the Bite! Because mosquitoes can spread diseases like West Nile Virus and St. Louis Encephalitis to people, it is especially important to keep these flying pests from using our yards and homes for breeding. All mosquitoes need small, stagnant bodies of water to lay eggs, so the best form of prevention is to empty or remove any receptacle that holds water.

- \* Empty plant saucers and similar water-holding containers.
- \* Dispose of old tires.
- \* Keep swimming pools at the proper chlorine level.
- \* Clean clogged roof gutters and drain flat roofs.
- \* Turn over wading pools and wheelbarrows when not in use.

To help prevent mosquito bites:

- \* Stay indoors at dawn, dusk and early evening.
- \* Wear long sleeved shirts and long pants when outdoors.
- \* Use an insect repellent containing between 20% and 30% DEET. Children need lower DEET concentrations than adults, so read repellent labels and apply carefully.



For more information, contact Dallas County Health and Human Services at 214-819-2115 or visit their web site [www.dallascounty.org](http://www.dallascounty.org).

## Keep Lancaster Beautiful

### GreenScene

**Computers are a main contributor to electronic waste (e-waste).** They are made up of components that are toxic to the environment. Millions of computers are being stored or thrown away. **You can help by:**

**Reuse:** Schools, non-profit groups, lower-income families can benefit from your equipment if it's in good condition.

**Donation:** Many charitable groups and training programs repair equipment for reuse.

**Recycling:** There are more and more manufacturers offering fee-based recycling services. There are also some companies who recycle computers, monitors and/or computer parts.

**Buy "green":** Some manufacturers are doing their part to be more eco-friendly; using more recycled content, making them more energy efficient, and using fewer toxins in the process.

For more information about recycling computers and other "green" products, visit [www.earth911.org](http://www.earth911.org)

Brought to you by **Keep Lancaster Beautiful**, a group dedicated to preserving the beauty of Lancaster's natural environment.

Please join us... **WE NEED YOU!** We meet the **2nd Thursday of each month at the Lancaster Pump Station, 1999 Jefferson Street, at 6:00 pm.** For more information, contact Kim Pekofske, City of Lancaster—972-218-1101.

## Calendar

### April

10th	9:00 am-4:00 pm	2nd Sat. on Square - Bicycles & Blooms
20th	10:00 am-11:00 am	Tall Texan Tales - Library
		Preschool Story Hour
20th	7:00 pm	National Library Week & 3rd Anniversary
		Dessert & Coffee
24th	10:00 am-11:00 am	Tall Texan Tales - Library
		Preschool Story Hour
24th	6:30 pm	Chamber Gala
27th	10:00 am-11:00 am	Come Along with Chameleon - Library
		Preschool Hour



### May

3-7	9:00 am-3:00 pm	Kindergarten Round Up
		At each elementary - 972-227-4141
8th		2nd Saturday on the Square
		Pet Fair & Pet Parade, National Pet Month
		Contact: Dee Hinkle 972-227-7782
6th	12:00 noon	National Day of Prayer Service
		Heritage Park Gazebo - contact 972-223-0333
11th	7:00 pm	Lancaster Genealogical Society
		America at Sea Pirateering
		& other Naval Records
25th	7:30 pm	Friends of the Library
29th	1:00 pm-3:00 pm	Kick-off Celebration for Library
		Summer Reading Club
12th	10:00 am-11:00 am	Summer Reading Club - Library
13th	7:00 pm	Lancaster Genealogical Society
		TXGen Web Project
15th		Election Day
15th	2:00 pm-3:00 pm	Summer Reading Club - Library
19th	10:00 am-11:00 am	Summer Reading Club - Library
22nd	2:00 pm-3:00 pm	Summer Reading Club - Library
26th	10:00 am-11:00 am	Summer Reading Club - Library
27th	7:30 pm	Friends of the Library - Pierre Bradshaw



### June

1st	10:00 am-11:00 am	Summer Reading Club - Library
3rd	2:00 pm-3:00 pm	Summer Reading Club - Library
8th	10:00 am-11:00 am	Summer Reading Club - Library
8th	7:00 pm	Lancaster Genealogical Society
		Colonial Mail
10th	2:00 pm-3:00 pm	Summer Reading Club - Library
12th		2nd Saturday Antiques On The Square
		contact 972-227-7782
15th	10:00 am-11:00 am	Summer Reading Club - Library
17th	2:00 pm-3:00 pm	Summer Reading Club - Library
19th		Best Southwest Juneteenth Celebration
		contact 972-218-1134
22nd	10:00 am-11:00 am	Summer Reading Club - Library
22nd	7:30 pm	Friends of the Library
24th	2:00 pm-3:00 pm	Summer Reading Club - Library
29th	10:00 am-11:00 am	Summer Reading Club - Library

### July

5th	10:00 am-11:00 am	Summer Reading Club - Library
8th	2:00 pm-3:00 pm	Summer Reading Club - Library
10th		In the Good Ole Summertime
		National Hot Dog Month - Hot Dog Eating
		Contest & National Ice Cream Month
		Ice Cream "Crank Off", Kite flying contest
		(weather permitting) contact: 972-227-7782

