



City of University Park THE ARBOR

Number 185, January 2019 City of University Park, Texas, 3800 University Blvd., University Park, Texas 75205 www.uptexas.org 214-363-1644

Mayor Olin Lane Jr. looks ahead to 2019



Happy 2019! The January Arbor always includes a look at some of the issues staff and the City Council will be focused on during the year ahead.

ideally, construction of large underground detention facilities in existing open spaces.

Retail Center improvements

Capital investment is also needed to improve the Snider Plaza and Miracle Mile retail areas. Here again analysis involves determining the costs and scope of modernizing existing underground utilities. Other capital considerations, like improvements to parking and landscaping, are also part of the review process. The Council has approved a contract with Pacheco Koch for design of utility improvements in Snider Plaza, and will look to award a contract with another firm to design landscape and hardscape improvements following the completion of the utility work.



Public Safety Radio System improvements

The City's public safety radio system that communicates to all emergency vehicles and to other City personnel with radio equipment is more than 20 years old and has reached end-of-life status. Since the system is outdated, emergency communications struggle with system clarity, coverage and building penetration problems. Because the Town of Highland Park has similar issues with its radio system, the City and Town began working to find a solution that would meet the needs of both agencies in a cost-effective manner. A consultant study

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Planning for large-scale capital projects

As outlined in two recent Arbors, along with providing for ongoing operational needs associated with public health, safety and welfare, the City has begun a thorough analysis of its long-term financial needs to prepare for several major projects that are on the horizon. To assist staff, the Council has established a Long Term Financial Planning Committee, comprised of residents who serve on the Financial Advisory and Capital Projects Review Committees. Their task is two-fold, to review how the City plans for its annual budget and to look at the financial implications of anticipated major projects.

Storm water system improvements

Much of this analysis and consideration will center on determining the best methods for funding large-scale improvements to our storm water system. In addition to guidance from resident committee members, the City is using outside experts. Staff is working with an engineering firm to develop a storm water master plan to best sequence a multi-year effort to improve our 25-mile storm sewer network and reduce surface water runoff in several of our neighborhoods. Once underway, the project will involve installation of larger diameter pipes, full replacement of some existing lines and

UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Tuesday, Jan. 15
5 p.m.
City Hall,
Council Chamber

Tuesday, Feb. 5
5 p.m.
City Hall,
Council Chamber



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Mayor's message

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determined the City and Town should partner in the installation of three cell sites, upgrade all dispatch center consoles and all emergency vehicles. The study also concluded the City and Town could save approximately \$1.5 million on the project's overall price tag by sharing with the Garland-Mesquite-Rowlett-Sachse network's main switch. In the coming months development and execution of necessary inter-local agreements will be finalized and implementation of the improvements will be scheduled. The City's share of project costs is approximately \$3.8 million. Funding for the related purchases and operating agreements will be provided through a combination of capital funds and DART rebates.

Arts

For many years, the City has enjoyed public art in many of its parks and open spaces. In the coming weeks, a new piece of art, generously provided on a long-term loan, will be placed on the island in Williams Park. Recognizing

that public art helps create special spaces in our community, Council has asked staff to consider a new public arts campaign with ongoing resident input.

Construction projects

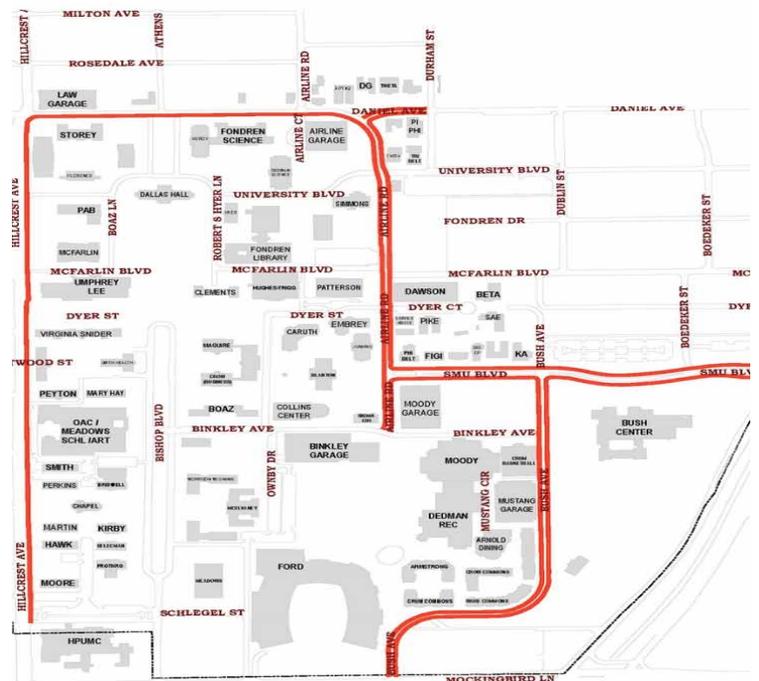
As you know, University Park has seen significant reinvestment in many of its educational, religious, and commercial institutions. While construction is ongoing, it will begin to wind down this year. Representing one of the final remaining projects of the HPISD bond program, Hyer Elementary School will begin construction this June. When Hyer is done in fall 2020, the HPISD bond program will be largely complete. Other major construction projects will finish this year, including the HPUMC Tolleson Family Activity Center and Hilltop Plaza (former Chase Bank site). Construction at Highland Park Presbyterian Church will span into 2020.

Motorized scooter use near the SMU campus

Following a request from SMU, its student body president and student senate, last month the City Council approved the use of motorized scooters on specific streets and sidewalks adjacent to campus. This is a trial program. In June, City staff will provide Council with an update on compliance by users and scooter company providers.

- Scooter users must be at least 18 years old
- Scooter users cannot leave boundary areas
- Scooter companies must use geo-fencing so that scooters will not operate outside boundary areas
- Scooters will be programmed to travel no more than 10 miles an hour
- SMU will publicize guidelines to students and faculty

Since it is private property, scooter use on the interior of the campus is regulated by the University and not the City. **Motorized scooter use is still prohibited on streets and sidewalks in the rest of University Park.**



Single red line shows sidewalk use, double red line shows street use adjacent to SMU campus.

City names outstanding employees for 2018

During last month's annual holiday luncheon, several City employees were recognized for outstanding service to the community. Those selected were nominated by their



colleagues. An employee committee comprised of those previously honored chose the two Gold Award winners, who are shown with City Manager Robbie Corder and

Mayor Olin Lane Jr.

Ricardo Sarabia – Parks and Recreation

Ricardo, who goes by Ricky, joined the City in 1973 and has worked for UP for 45 years. During the last four decades, he has worked in various departments including Sanitation, Traffic and Parks, however, he has spent the majority of his time in the Parks Department. Ricky is one of the crew members who keeps our parks and landscaping looking second to none, while braving the summer heat and chilly winters. On their nominating forms, colleagues mentioned, “Ricky gives his all each

and every day.” His peers say “He keeps work fun and the mood light, and is genuinely liked by every single person in Parks.”

Robert Ramsey – Police

Officer Ramsey joined the City in 2008. During the past year, Officer Ramsey has been involved in several arrests, including the apprehension of several burglary suspects and the recovery of stolen property. He has also provided instruction on Procedural Justice, Active Threat and Active Shooter response. Among the comments from colleagues who nominated him were, “His actions throughout 2018 have brought great credit to himself and the City of University Park as a whole,” and “He is continuously conscious of the department’s image and he sets the example for other employees.”

In recognition of their service to the community, our two Gold Award Employees of the Year will receive a cash award from the University Park Community League. Congratulations to these two outstanding City staff members and to the Silver Award winners listed below!

Staff Silver Award Honorees

- **Finance - Tonya Glick**
- **Fire - Scott Green**
- **Information Services - Tim Pope**
- **Public Works/Traffic - Fernando Zavala**
- **Parks and Recreation - Jose Munoz**

Santa and UPFD spread holiday cheer

Last month, while his elves remained at the North Pole to prepare his sleigh for the big night, Santa Claus toured the streets of University Park in a UPFD fire engine. Residents were able to track Santa's nightly progress through the neighborhoods using a Santa Tracker link found on the City's website. Over five nights, Santa Tracker logged more than 1,100 hits.

Saying that red is his favorite color, Santa commented that he enjoyed riding in the fire engine. *The North Pole Gazette* reports, despite his busy schedule, Santa has already told his elves to clear his calendar for “Santa Around Town” next December.



City news briefs

University Park/Highland Park Ribbon Policy



Throughout the year colored ribbons are seen on trees, lamp posts and utility poles in the City and Town. The ribbons denote memorials, playoff-bound HPISD athletic teams and various annual awareness campaigns such as Red Ribbon Week. A community effort, the displays are often initiated by residents and supporters of various worthwhile causes.

Guidelines for Placement

To avoid traffic confusion and visibility issues, ribbons should not be attached to any City or Town infrastructure (bridge railings, street sign/street light/traffic poles). Also, they should not be tied on trees in any City or Town parks.

Guidelines for Removal

Ribbons attached to trees along the parkways or side-streets will be removed 10 working days after the commemorative event (memorial service, game, Red Ribbon Week, etc.). Those wanting a longer duration must get prior approval from the City or Town.

Ribbons attached to front yard trees along the parkway will be left untouched by City and Town staff unless they become tattered or begin to fall off.

Repairs upcoming for rubberized playgrounds



Not that many years ago, all our playgrounds had woodchip playing surfaces. In 2009, to create safe and easily accessible playgrounds for all ages and abilities, the City began installing rubberized surfaces at all our playgrounds. Coffee Park was the first to receive the upgrade. A few years later all our playgrounds featured this poured-in-place surface. Understandably, due to environmental conditions and heavy use, many of the

surfaces have faded or are worn and cracked. To ensure level and safe play areas, the City Council recently approved funding to resurface the playgrounds at Coffee, Curtis, Davis and Williams Parks. This effort, needed every four to five years, involves filling cracks, patching existing damage, adding surface material where needed and resealing. This work helps protect the City's sizeable financial investment in our playgrounds and assures parents and caregivers that visits are as enjoyable as possible. The resurfacing project is scheduled to begin this month. Weather permitting, all repairs will be completed by early spring. Once repairs are completed on the four parks mentioned, similar funding will be budgeted for the remaining parks that feature rubberized playing surfaces.

Parks with rubberized playgrounds:

- Burleson
- Caruth
- Coffee
- Curtis
- Davis
- Germany (recently surfaced fitness area)
- Smith
- Walt Humann
- Williams

Donations for Genesis Women's Shelter

Again this holiday season, the University Park Police Department collected new toys and clothing for children



of all ages who are serviced by the Genesis Women's Shelter in Dallas. The organization provides safety, shelter and support for women who have experienced domestic violence, and raises awareness regarding its cause, prevalence and impact. The photo shows some of the toys donated by City staff.