City news briefs

Date set for 2nd annual Children's Fishing Derby

The pond will be stocked and the fish will be biting! The City of University Park and the Park Cities Bank will host this year's Children's Fishing Derby on Saturday, June 7 at Caruth Park from 9 a.m. to noon. Children must bring their own pole and bait. "Catch and release" procedures will be followed. Awards will be presented for the largest and smallest fish caught. There will also be door prizes, snacks and drinks. Parents are encouraged to register their children (ages 6 to 12) for the event by contacting the Park Department at 214-987-5488. Registration will also be allowed at the park on the day of the event.

University Park residents will see YAC representatives (wearing their special Commission polo shirts) this summer as they assist the Park Department with the Children’s Fishing Derby and the July 4 Fun Run.

Next fall, YAC will help spread the word about the benefits of the City’s commercial and residential recycling programs. They will also take part in an ongoing campaign (proposed by the Public Safety Advisory Committee) to remind residents of all ages to obey posted speed limits throughout the City.

Leland Nelson Fountain dedicated

University Park’s first City Manager was hired in 1938. Since then only three individuals have served in that capacity. Leland Nelson’s tenure as City Manager began in 1970 and ended with his retirement in 1991. Under his management the City acquired and constructed Germany Park, developed the City’s Master Plan, and remodeled City Hall (1974). In recognition of these and many other accomplishments, the fountain in the Williams Park pond now bears his name. A plaque noting Nelson’s service to the community is now in place near the fountain, just off the sidewalk on the south side of University Blvd.

"VoIP" and home security systems

A new type of phone service continues to grow in popularity. Not dependent on traditional "landline" service, “VoIP” (Voice over Internet Protocol) technology allows people to place phone calls by broadband connection. This technology makes it possible to forego traditional residential phone service. Those who already have VoIP service or those who are considering its use should consider the following:

• Your home may lose connection to the phone service that links your alarm system to outside emergency assistance.
• If you chose VoIP service, your service provider or alarm security company may need to reconnect your phone service to the alarm control panel. Before the VoIP provider leaves the home, you should test the system with your security alarm company.
• In the event of a residential power outage, your alarm system may not be able to communicate with your alarm monitoring company. To address this concern either install a back-up wireless radio transmitter or use a "measured phone line."

Reducing the risk of “Burglary to a Motor Vehicle”

Some crime categories traditionally increase during the summer season. Not surprisingly, as residents enjoy more outdoor activities and the hours of daylight climb, the City usually suffers a hike in the number of vehicle break-ins. In 2007, the University Park Police Department reported 182 “Burglary of a Motor Vehicle” incidents. With summer fast approaching, the Police Department reminds motorists of the necessity of locking their vehicles, placing their valuables in the trunk or, at least, moving them out of eye-sight.

So far this year (January 1 through March 31), 61 motor vehicle burglary reports have been filed with the Department. While patrol officers are constantly on the lookout for those who commit this crime, neighbors and others, who are quick to report suspicious activity, are vital in helping to reduce the number of cases reported.

City’s Direct Alarm program

The University Park Police Department’s Direct Alarm program monitors security alarm systems directly from the City’s police and fire dispatch center. This direct link allows personnel to respond faster in times of emergency. More than 2,000 U.P. addresses are protected by Direct Alarm.

For more information about Direct Alarm, go to the home page of the City's Web site at www.uptexas.org. If you are already a Direct Alarm subscriber, and you have questions about VoIP, call Lt. Keith Burks at 214-987-5372.

Youth Advisory Commission has first formal meeting

Congratulations to the 24 students (grades 9-12) who were selected to serve on the City’s new Youth Advisory Commission (YAC)! Created by the City Council as an advisory group on issues directly related to teenagers, YAC will also be busy helping the City with various special events and ongoing outreach efforts.

At their first meeting in April, the students met with Mayor “Blackie” Holmes, City Manager Bob Livingston, and their staff liason, City Secretary Kate Smith.

Pictured Above: Mayor “Blackie” Holmes, former City Manager Leland Nelson and current City Manager, Bob Livingston.