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Inside Section A:

METRO A2,A4



Tax Myths and Misunderstandings

SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT A3



Town Splashpad, a Grand Opening with a Splash

COMMUNITY A5



Southern Chapel Vintage Market

HOME & GARDEN A6



You're Gonna Dig This!

EDUCATION A7



North Texas State Fair Association Announces 2018 Scholarship Recipients

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES A8



Do College Students REALLY Need Life Insurance?

BUSINESS & DEVELOPMENT A9



O'Dell Nursery Now Open

SPIRITUAL A11



Rejoice

Aubrey Education Foundation Awards Grants

Amy Ruggini



The Aubrey Education Foundation awarded 11 innovative and technology grants, totaling \$22,178, to Aubrey Independent School District teachers in May.

AEF Executive Director Rhonda Brawner, Aubrey ISD administrators, and representatives from CoServ and

the city of Aubrey surprised teachers in their classrooms with large paper checks. The teacher grants are partly funded by endowments from CoServ Charitable Foundation and Boeing, and AISD Employee Giving.

This year's grants included a floral cooler for floral design

classes, funding for three robotic teams, a Google smart speaker, mobile STEM carts, fine motor light tables for writing, a portable wireless projector and Chromebook set for a One Wall Classroom, an Xperia Sony touch projector, KidsErgo Active Seats and class sets of iPads.

Child Involved in Accidental Drowning at Little Elm Park

LITTLE ELM, TX- A family gathering at Little Elm Park Beach has resulted in the tragic drowning of a three-year-old female on the afternoon of May 26, 2018.

The child's family reported the missing child to park officials at approximately 3:29 p.m. In anticipation of the expected Memorial Day holiday crowds, the Town of Little Elm had enlisted additional staff from the Parks and Recreation Department, Little Elm Police officers, Fire Department per-

sonnel, EMS technicians, and numerous volunteers.

An emergency communication regarding the missing child was made to all Town personnel at the park, and at 3:33 p.m., emergency respondents were notified that a child matching the description of the missing child had been found in the shallow portion of the lake, unconscious, unresponsive and not breathing.

Fire Department personnel immediately initiated CPR and ALS interventions while transporting the child to Medical City of Denton.

Despite the uninterrupted efforts of the Little Elm Fire Department as well as the hospital's emergency room personnel, the child was pronounced deceased at the hospital. The family's identity is being withheld in order to allow them ample opportunity for adequate notification of kin.

Officials from the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife along with Little Elm Police Department have initiated an investigation into the particulars of the incident. There is no further information to share at this time.

Aubrey ISD Board Members Sworn In at May Meeting

Amy Ruggini



The Aubrey Independent School District community said goodbye to a familiar face and welcomed a new one at the May school board meeting. School board president Ron Bullock stepped down after 21 years of service, current school board members Dr. Joey Saxon and Annette Crooks began new terms and new school board member Carlos Urquidez was sworn in.

enrolled at two campuses. Mr. Bullock oversaw the growth in the district as enrollment has more than doubled and the number of campuses has grown to five in the last 21 years.

"I'm so appreciative to have gotten to work with Mr. Bullock the last two years," Aubrey ISD superintendent Dr. David Belding said. "Over the last 21 years, Ron has made a difference in the lives of so many students. I'm excited to continue to work with Dr. Saxon and Mrs. Crooks and to welcome Mr. Urquidez as he begins his tenure. I know the three of them have it in their hearts to serve children and our entire community."

The Aubrey ISD community bid farewell to Mr. Bullock, who served as school board president, vice president and secretary in his 21 years of service as a school board member. He was elected in 1997 when there were 900 students

"It's been a privilege of serving with 27 different people on this board since 1997," Mr. Bullock said. "I've had the privilege of being 1/27th over 21 years of what we have done. And we can't be prouder of this community. I believe board service is the truest form of public service. It's only about kids, stakeholders and education."

Place 3 will be now be filled by Mr. Urquidez, who was sworn in on Wednesday night. Mr. Urquidez is a realtor and Providence Village resident. He and his wife have three children that attend Aubrey ISD schools.

Continued on A2

Prosper Produces Own Emergency Management Plan

PROSPER, TX-By the end of this month, the Town of Prosper will no longer be part of the Collin County Emergency Management Program, opting instead to be governed by its own customized program.

"The push for developing our own emergency management plan started almost a year ago," Says Kent Bauer, Emergency Management Coordinator. "We recognized the need for our own emergency management plan because we have specific needs that require a customized approach."

The emergency management function is nested in the Fire

Department, which traditionally deals with weather events, catastrophes, major accidents, and other emergencies, allowing for a coordinated approach to these contingencies. Having an emergency management program specific to Prosper also allows the Town to be better prepared for emergencies.

Recently, the Town Council repealed the ordinance that made Prosper part of the Collin County Emergency Management Program, clearing the way for the switchover, to be officially implemented on May 27.

Continued on A2

Little Elm Clean-up Efforts Win Second Place Statewide

Similar-size cities compete for state grants



LITTLE ELM, TX- Efforts to keep Little Elm as a clean, attractive and welcoming community characterize the work of the many volunteers who participate in clean-ups under the auspices of the year-round Keep Little Elm Beautiful campaign, this year the winner of second place in the Governor's Community Achievement Awards program for its category. For the second year in a row, Little Elm's nomination for the award in category six, cities and towns between 25,000 and 40,000 population, placed second, behind Lake Jackson. The Governor's Community Achievement Award, part of the

Keep Texas Beautiful Program, recognizes the results of clean-up and beautification efforts in ten population categories, and the ten first place winners receive Landscape Awards of between \$90,000 and \$290,000. While second place is highly admirable, it was not eligible for a cash prize. Nevertheless, the Keep Little Elm Beautiful program put together a very strong case for winning. In addition to the various clean up events, the group works to gather recycling information from local businesses such as Kroger, Lowes, Dollar Tree, as well as residential curbside recycling by CWD and Simple Recycling, and adds that information to its program nomination. Also included are the Adopt-A-Street and other litter prevention efforts by community groups. The group researches law enforcement records for cases of littering of streets and waterways and

Continued on A6

Where is Jim?



Join 380News in our summer adventure with Jim Manning. Yes, you can win! It is easy. Just tell us the location of the photo, and send the information to jim@380news.com along with your email or phone number. There will be a drawing from all of the correct answers to determine the winner. Jim Manning

will contact the winner from the drawing and the prize can be picked up Hula Hut. This month's prize is a gift certificate from Hula Hut, located at 210 East Eldorado Parkway in Little Elm, their number is 214-675-7613. The winner will receive a dinner for two from Hula Hut.

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380News
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Advertising and Editorial Submission Deadlines

The publication deadline for advertising, editorial submissions, guest editorials, and letters to the editor is the 20th day of the preceding month for each issue. Letters to the editor must be 400 words or less and include a name, address, and phone number (only name and city will be published). Content may be submitted via email to info@380news.com.

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Tax Myths and Misunderstandings



Of all the things that I dislike in helping taxpayers with their taxes and IRS issues is dealing with the IRS. They are a bureaucratic abyss that is difficult to navigate even for those of us who understand tax law and the process. Taxpayers are held to certain deadlines for addressing IRS letters and audits, yet the IRS usually takes months and, many times, up to a year to resolve a taxpayer issue. As a result, the taxpayer may have to hire a professional like me to represent them and resolve their problem. This costs the taxpayer money that they should not have to spend. On the flip side, the taxpayer may pay the IRS monies

that are not due because of the fear in dealing with the IRS.

Tax season gets me thinking on how I can help clients deal with, or avoid, issues with the IRS. First and foremost, file an accurate return. Make sure you have all of the documents that are needed, and if you are a small business, that you have issued all of the documents required. Accuracy includes ensuring you can substantiate your deductions and adjustments. Substantiation means you have a bank or credit card record with cancelled checks or receipts. They must show the date paid or posted, the name of the recipient (business or charity), and the amount of the payment. Without these records, the IRS can disallow a deduction or adjustment the taxpayer made on their return. Statements alone are not enough proof of what you purchased or paid for.

Without proper substantiation, business expenses may be treated as taxable income. For small businesses,

proof of an expense includes keeping adequate, written records with sufficient evidence. Adequate records are defined by the IRS as: "You should keep the proof you need in an account book, diary, log, statement of expense, trip sheets, or similar record. You should also keep documentary evidence that, together with your record, will support each element of an expense."

Keep your records for at least three years after you have filed your tax return. That is the amount of time the IRS has to audit your return – unlimited time if you committed fraud or filed a fraudulent return. Many receipts these days fade after one year or so. It is your responsibility to keep the integrity of the information, so I recommend that you convert your documents to digital format for safekeeping. Scanners are very affordable these days.

Logs and records must be kept for the substantiation of gambling winnings and losses, cash and barter transactions, mileage for any purpose, medical, volunteer, business, etc. Mileage cannot be estimated. There are expensive apps for iPhone and android that easily track your movements via GPS that can help you with mileage recordkeeping. Gambling logs should be kept for every session of gambling. There are apps for gamblers, as well.

Donations that are deductible are gifts of cash or items to qualified

organizations. Individuals and some non-profit organizations such as a Chamber of Commerce or Masonic Lodge do not qualify. Check with the organization prior to gifting to determine the deductibility of the donation.

If you give business gifts in the course of your trade or business, you can deduct no more than \$25 of the cost of business gifts you give directly or indirectly to each person during your tax year. Any gift greater than \$25 is not deductible for the business and becomes taxable income.

Entertaining clients and employees by taking them to ball games, golf, hunting or any other venue that is entertainment related is no longer deductible for a business beginning in 2018 based on the new tax law. Business meals for clients and employees are still deductible as long as they have a business purpose and are ordinary and necessary expenses for the nature of the business.

Knowing and following the Internal Revenue Code rules are very important to keep you audit-proof and minimize your issues with the IRS. The IRS website is a great option on information to help educate you as well as your tax professional.

Anita Jean is an Enrolled Agent, licensed to practice at all levels of the IRS. She can be reached at 940-365-3115 or 5099 US Hwy 377 S Suite 400 in Krugerville.

Sarah Auer at the USA Gymnastics Region Three Championships

Amy Ruggini



Aubrey High School freshman Sarah Auer placed in the top 10 at the USA Gymnastics Region 3 Level 7 Championship in Kansas City, Missouri over the April 27-29 weekend. Sarah placed fifth on balance beam, ninth on vault, ninth on the uneven bars and ninth all-around.

Sarah was one of 480 gymnasts competing from Texas, Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Wyoming. She placed first in the vault, second in the all-around competition and the bars event at the level 7 state competition earlier in the month.

'Aubrey ISD...' continued from front page

"I'm humbled to have the support of the community," Mr. Urquidez said. "I hope to add to the great support team as our district continues to help our kids and community move forward as we grow."

Dr. Saxon begins his fourth term on the school board, while Mrs. Crooks begins her second full term.

"I look forward to representing the Aubrey ISD community for another term," Dr. Saxon said. "This is an exciting time for our students, parents, teachers, staff and stakeholders as we prepare for our growth and continue to deliver exceptional learning opportunities. Thank you to the community for your ongoing support of Aubrey ISD."

"It is my honor to serve another term on the AISD Board of Trustees," Mrs. Crooks said. "Our administrators, staff and teachers do amazing work every single day for the benefit of our students, and I'm privileged and proud to play a small part in the ongoing success of our great school district."

At Wednesday's meeting, the school board selected a new president, vice president and secretary to serve as officers for the upcoming year. Jim Milacek was selected as president after serving as vice president for the last five years, Dr. Saxon was appointed vice president after serving as secretary for the last two years. Colleen Dow was named secretary.

'Prosper Produces Own...' continued from front page

"Prosper's separation from the county's plan enhances our emergency management program and establishes Prosper as a primary jurisdiction according to the State of Texas," said Bauer. "This opens up grant opportunities that we were previously not eligible to apply for."

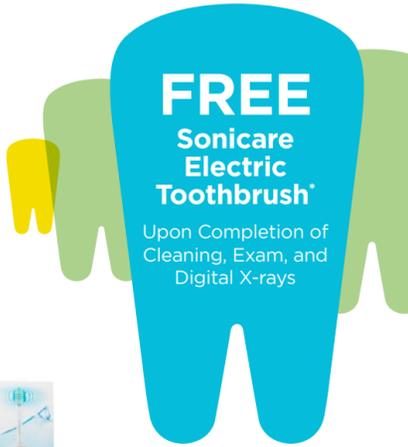
Bauer spent several months researching emergency management plans of like-sized municipalities, and with the help of various Town department personnel, developed the detailed plan as a draft. It was shared with stakeholders throughout Prosper, earning approval from each area affected.

Once receiving the endorsement of the affected departments, the plan was forwarded to the State for review and approval, which it received. The action officially makes Prosper a primary jurisdiction.

Part of the process included alerting all surrounding municipalities that Prosper planned on depending on its own plan. This was necessary to fulfill State requirements.

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S SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Town Splashpad, a Grand Opening with a Splash *Jim Manning*



What is a splash-pad? It's a huge area with numerous devices that project, squirt, or drop water. Powered by pumps

that resend water from the ground to devices installed above ground and get people wet and provides tons of fun! The Town invested in this area for the kids and residents of Little Elm. The water does not accumulate at the base offering a more conservative use of water and the surface is made for plenty of fun use. There are shaded pavilions and rest rooms for the guests to use.

The grand opening includ-

ed a moment with the Mayor, an introduction from the

Parks Director, Chad Hyde, and a wet welcoming for the Town Council members who kicked off this big event for the kids and their families present.

The Town provided squirties for the kids to play with and there were food trucks on site for the event.

This new event is located off Witt Road, just north of King Road, just in time for the hot weather and summer vacations.

Aubrey High School Students Showcase Art at State Visual Arts Scholastic Event *Amy Ruggini*



Aubrey High School students Kimmie Wesson, Emily Perez, and Sarah Wainwright competed among the top six percent of Texas high school artists at this year's State Visual Arts Scholastic Event on Saturday, April 28 at San Marcos High School.

Kimmie Wesson and Sarah Wainwright earned the Gold Seal for their artwork. Kimmie earned the prestigious honor for two artworks. The Gold Seal was awarded to only 150 artworks.

Sarah and Kimmie both earned \$100 scholarships in a sketchbook drawing competition, and Kimmie took home a \$200 award in a 2D artwork competition.

Denton County Master Gardener Association Vegetable, Fruit, Herb, and Flower Show *Kathryn Wells*



Area gardeners are invited to share their harvest of vegetables, fruits, herbs, and flowers. Cash prizes will be awarded to winning entries.

Denton County Master Gardener Association, in partnership with City of Denton Economic Development Program and Denton County Historical Society, will hold its annual Vegetable, Fruit, Herb, & Flower Show on Saturday, June 16th at Denton County Historical Park & Community Market, 317 W. Mulberry Street, Denton, TX 76201.

Open to all Denton

County residents, the show features categories for both adults and children with cash prizes awarded for winning entries.

Entries are accepted between 9 and 10 am; judging begins at 10 am; winners will be announced at noon.

For complete details and entry rules, visit www.dcmga.com.

Aubrey High School Student Qualifies for State Bass Fishing Tournament *Amy Ruggini*



Aubrey High School Sophomore Adam Eggleston qualified for the State Bass Fishing Tournament through THSBA (Texas High School Bass Association) in his first year on a fishing team. Adam will participate in the tournament on May 19th and 20th.

May is Designated Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Month *Jim Manning*

Little Elm's Mayor Hillock issued a proclamation declaring May 2018 as Motorcycle Safety and Awareness month to members of the local motorcycle club who will pass this on to other community riders.



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METRO

USDA Invests \$24 Million in Water Infrastructure in Texas Rural Communities

TEMPLE, TX – Assistant Secretary for Rural Development Anne Hazlett today announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is investing \$256 million in 81 projects to improve water and wastewater infrastructure in rural areas in 35 states. Texas State Director Edd Hargett reported that 5 of those projects were in Texas with investments totaling over \$24 million.

“Funding for infrastructure is vital in helping rural communities keep the pace with their rising populations,” said Hargett. “We are pleased to be able to assist these communities in meeting their water and wastewater needs.”

The recently enacted Fis-

cal Year (FY) 2018 Omnibus spending bill includes a significant boost in financial support for water and wastewater projects. It provides \$5.2 billion for USDA loans and grants, up from \$1.2 billion in FY 2017. It also directs Agriculture Secretary Perdue to make investments in rural communities with the greatest infrastructure needs.

In addition to funding in the 2018 Omnibus bill, President Trump has proposed a \$200 billion infrastructure investment that allocates 25 percent (\$50 billion) to rural projects.

The loans and grants announced today are being awarded through USDA’s Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant program. The funds can be used to finance drinking water, storm-

water drainage and waste disposal systems for rural communities with 10,000 or fewer residents.

Investments in Texas include:

- \$6.5 million for the City of Kemp, population 1,154, to finance water system improvements. The project will include improvements to the water treatment plant, replacing pumps and equipment, rehabilitating the treatment building, and replacing small-diameter distribution lines. The improvements allow for the City of Kemp to continue providing quality potable water to residents and businesses in the community.
- \$9.3 million for the City of Patton Village, to be used for water improvements. The funds will be used to

replace the distribution system, upgrade two water plant facilities, and construct a new water facility with a new water well. The current water system has numerous violations and enforcement actions with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Once the improvements are made, the City will be able to provide residents with safe drinking water. The City of Patton Village serves a population of 1,925.

- \$2 million for Cross Timbers Water Supply Corporation to make improvements within its distribution system. The investment will also provide for adequate fire protection to the area. Water system improvements will include the installation of approximately 20,000 linear feet of water distribution lines in various portions of the system to replace small diameter. The population served by this project is 3,282.
- \$1.2 million for Tuscola-Taylor County WCID #1 to finance water line improvements. Through an Interlocal Agreement, the cost of the improvements will be shared between the Tuscola-Taylor

County WCID No. 1, the town of Buffalo Gap and the City of Lawn. The improvements allow for the three communities to continue providing quality potable water to residents and businesses. The Tuscola-Taylor County WCID #1 serves a rural population of 742 residents.

- \$4.8 million for the City of Wharton to help finance another well, a 500,000-gallon storage tank, and a pump station to connect to the City’s water system. This additional water will increase the system’s capacity to allow for future growth and meet the maximum daily demands. The well will also provide reliability should one of the existing wells fail. The City of Wharton is in Wharton County and serves a population of 8,832.

In April 2017, President Donald J. Trump established the Interagency Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity to identify legislative, regulatory and policy changes that could promote agriculture and prosperity in rural communities. In January 2018, Secretary Perdue

presented the Task Force’s findings to President Trump. These findings included 31 recommendations to align the federal government with state, local and tribal governments to take advantage of opportunities that exist in rural America. Increasing investments in rural infrastructure is a key recommendation of the task force.

To view the report in its entirety, please view the Report to the President of the United States from the Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity (PDF, 5.4 MB). In addition, to view the categories of the recommendations, please view the Rural Prosperity infographic (PDF, 190 KB).

USDA Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities and create jobs in rural areas. This assistance supports infrastructure improvements; business development; housing; community services such as schools, public safety and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural areas. For more information, visit www.rd.usda.gov.

Little Elm Chamber Welcomes Flix Brewhouse

Jim Manning



Flix Brewhouse was welcomed to the Little Elm community with a Grand Opening ceremony by the Town of

Little Elm and the Chamber of Commerce.

Attendees were welcomed by the CEO and other officers of the Corporate office and local business. This business houses eight movie theaters with facilities to order food and beverages

right from your seat while watching your favorite first run movies. They brew craft beer right on the premises. Located at 4-corners as the residents call it (Highway 423 and King Road), they have a great location to serve Little Elm, Frisco, The Colony and surrounding areas of the 380 Corridor.

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COMMUNITY

Southern Chapel Vintage Market

Where French and Farmhouse Styles Meet
Jodie Linton-Prickett



One of my favorite landmarks in the 380 Corridor is the little white chapel, which sits adoringly on 5101 F.M. 424 in Crossroads. This lovely example of architecture built in 1900, operated as a traditional place of worship and a cowboy church until recently. Now, it is a delightfully artistic store housing Southern Chapel Vintage Market, LLC, where savvy southern style has a French twist. This theme is echoed through every aspect of this serendipitous locale. One would never know what treasures are waiting inside by simply driving by, because in order to preserve the historical value, very little adjustment has been made to the exterior of the building, allowing it to continue to look more like a chapel than what it has evolved to. However, once inside, you will find this amazing little jewel should not be overlooked.

There is nothing more charming than finding a location and a point of view that come together in the most interesting way. Nicole Canales, always has had a creative side to her, with the gift of reorienting things and making the most of what is around her. She has the ability to entertain the notion of what things or places could be, not necessarily what they are, allowing her to come up with the perfect concept for Southern Chapel Vintage Market, LLC. By examining things outside of the box, she landed on the path that led her to this exciting chapter in her life.

Canales has a close relationship with her mother who taught her resourcefulness and inventiveness. This sparked her ambition to own a place where she could embrace her

passion, spend time with her family and inspire her children as her mother did her. With the support of her husband and her strong sense of good timing, she embarked on her dream of starting her own business. It all fell together when she encountered the beautiful white southern-style chapel that had recently come available. This inspiring venue provided the ambiance and the space for her to comele interior design, home décor, art, special interest classes, a supper club and wine bar.

During the process of creating her business plan, Canales recognized that several small business entrepreneurs and area artists were looking for a place to set up shop, but due to the high cost of overhead in the developing 380 Corridor and lack of store front space it was becoming an enormous challenge. However, that problem was resolved when Canales found likeminded vendors to take smaller available spaces within the Texas sized chapel. The group of vendors that came together have a harmonious synergy resulting in collections of products with a similar vibe, but with very different personalities. This collaboration provides an exceptional inventory and a consistent turnover in products, allowing clients many new choices each time they visit. When you walk into Southern Chapel Vintage Market, LLC you feel a sense of serenity; the aromas are pleasant and the variety of choices range from unique gifts, one of a kind works of art, and home décor from French to farmhouse. They also offer interesting and exciting classes, workshops, and events regularly. There is also a beautiful venue that is available to rent for private parties,

receptions and business meetings. Its charming and eclectic atmosphere is distinctive to the area, and gives you a feeling that you are in a space that graces the pages of the Southern Living Magazine. Another unique element is 380 Supper Club. "We host unique suppers throughout the year centered on the season and what it offers. We aim to provide a unique dining experience where our guests will enjoy dinner in our beautiful farmhouse style venue with a lovely view overlooking the meadow," says Canales, "Our goal is to stay local, where each dinner highlights the season's harvest from a local farm and each event supports a local charity."

In mid-December, Canales recently unveiled the newest addition to the venue, UnWine'd, a wine bar that offers wines from all over the world, served in flights, by the glass, and retail by the bottle. The wine bar is open from Thursdays through Saturdays between 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. Not only does it have a beautifully decorated inside space they also have a relaxing outside patio for their patrons to enjoy.

Southern Chapel Vintage Market, LLC, is a place where the merchants know your name, treat you like family and embrace the community. Somehow, Canales mingles together, a performance and entertainment venue, dinner club, wine bar, vendor weekends, and a boutique, fusing them harmoniously together. So, when you are passing by, don't judge a chapel by its steeple. Come in and see what this one-off place has to offer. Hours of operation are Thursday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Where Science Meets Art

North Texas Tree Care Arborist Mike Mathis



A true arborist loves trees but at North Texas Tree Care, not only do they love trees; they also love working with their customers. They go above and beyond what is generally expected by treating every tree and every shrub with the respect they deserve.

Mike and Sheila Mathis own and operate North Texas Tree Care. They have earned an exemplary reputation in the area with their ability to save and care for trees and plants that are vital to the beauty of our surroundings. North Texas Tree Care has been serving the 380 Corridor for over a decade.

A Certified Arborist such as Mike Mathis has achieved a level of knowledge in the art and science of tree care through experience and by passing a comprehensive examination developed by some of the nation's leading experts on tree care. Certified Arborists must also continue their education to maintain their certification and adhere to a Code of Ethics. Therefore, they are more likely to be up to date on the latest techniques in arboriculture.

The Arborists at North Texas Tree Care have built a reputation based on their professionalism, experience, and their word. Their tree care business is all about what they can do for the trees and plants in the 380 Corridor. Trust me, when it comes to trees, they can do everything! "We consistently pride ourselves on offering the personal touch, which means we stay connected with our customers from concept to completion. Besides our qual-

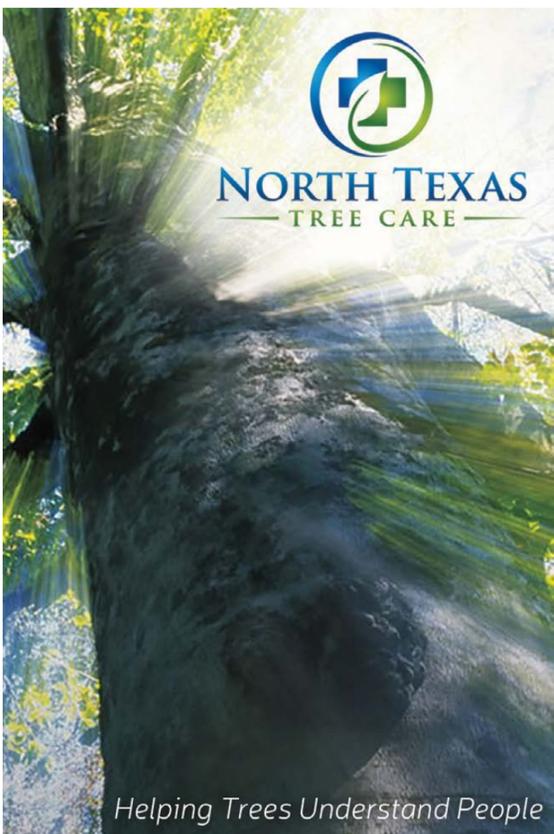
ity arborist services, we guide our customers with informed choices, because we love sharing our knowledge, expertise, creativity and exceptional results," says Mathis.

Pruning or removing trees can be hazardous. Any type of tree work should be achieved by a well-trained arborist, one who is knowledgeable and equipped to work safely. When it comes to the cultivation and care of trees and shrubbery, which includes fertilization, drought services as well as the treatment and prevention of tree diseases,

North Texas Tree Care handles the work impeccably.

North Texas Tree Care is inspired by giving their customers tremendous value, as they strive to provide the solutions that are best for each tree or plant project. "We are ready and available to work out a plan for your specific needs, so please feel free to call us at 940.463.4586 to schedule a free consultation," says Mathis.

To find out more about North Texas Tree Care please visit their website at northtexas tree care.com.



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HOME & GARDEN

You're Gonna Dig This!

Expert gardener to speak at the Heritage Center



FRISCO, TX - There are two types of gardeners in North Texas—those whose gardens look like magazine covers and those who wish theirs did. Whether you're in one of those two groups or your idea of a garden is that barren patch in the corner of your yard, Steve Huddleston wants to meet you and help you realize your landscaping dreams.

Huddleston, senior horticulturist at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden and author of Easy Gardens for North Central Texas, will offer education and encouragement from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 14,

at The Depot at the Heritage Center. Huddleston guides his audiences with tips on the most colorful, low water plants for North Texas gardens.

"It's great to introduce North Texans to an author who can help brighten their minds and their yards," says Thomas Finley, Adult Services Manager. "It will be a fun and informative evening for gardeners of every ability."

Steve Huddleston excels at making beautiful yards easy for anyone. For some, gardening can be intimidating. Huddleston's approach helps less experienced gardeners dig with confidence.

His focus on North Texas yards makes his wealth of knowledge even more valuable.

"I have heard Steve speak on a number of occasions. His vast knowledge of plants for North Texas is extensive. His humor

brings his presentation alive and leaves the listener with a chuckle. His book is a consistent reference for any gardener in our area," said Bruce Batman, Past President Collin County Master Gardeners.

There is no charge for the event and it is open to the public. Easy Gardens for North Central Texas will be available for purchase and signing -- cash or check only, please. Registration is encouraged at friscoliberalry.com/authors. Meet the Gardener is presented by Frisco Public Library and Frisco Water Wise. Join Steve Huddleston at The Depot at the Heritage Center, located at 6321 Page Street, Frisco, Texas 75034, on Thursday, June 14, from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Learn more about the Library at friscoliberalry.com. Find out more about Frisco Water Wise at friscotexas.gov/water.

Little Elm Mosquito Pool Found to Have West Nile Virus

LITTLE ELM, TX - A trapping and surveillance check has revealed a positive result for the presence of the West Nile Virus in a mosquito pool in Little Elm, says Public Works Director Kevin Mattingly. The positive detection occurred last week. Mosquito pool is the term used for a group of mosquitoes caught and tested out of a single trap. The positive test occurred at trap located within the Shell Beach Lift Station, in the area of Cottonwood Creek Park. "Several mosquito traps have been set up around a number of locations in Town," said Mattingly. "In the one at the water lift station within the Shell Beach area, a mosquito pool tested positive for West Nile Virus." Results from

the other traps set up in different parts of Town have proven negative as of this time. Signs will be placed along Shell Beach to alert residents of the positive test. Assistant Town Manager Joe Florentino supervises the Little Elm Emergency Management Program, which oversees and implements the Mosquito Management and Response Plan. "There is no immediate danger," said Florentino. "If residents take the appropriate actions, the chances of a human infection are minimized substantially." Taking a proactive approach can be very successful in limiting exposure to the virus, even when a positive has been identified. Officials strongly encourage

residents to enact the "Four Ds" of prevention. These include: • Drain all standing water, and overturn containers, pots, and other areas where water can pool; • Dress in light colored, long-sleeve and long pant leg clothing when outdoors; • DEET-containing pesticides and repellents work best and are safe to use; • Dawn and Dusk are when mosquitoes are most active and thus outdoor activity should be limited. Mattingly says crews will continue to apply larvicides to mosquito breeding areas and conduct surveillance measures. But he emphasizes that residents' efforts are the best line of defense against the disease. "All citizens should be following the Four Ds, especially this year as we have more water than normal," he said. "The Town will continue to be vigilant in our efforts to manage this situation." For more information please contact: Emergency Management at 972-377-1896, Health Services at 214-731-3276 and Public Works at 214-377-5556.

'Little Elm Clean Up...'
continued from front page

initiates efforts to clean up the reported sites. School-based beautification and education programs are included along with Economic Development Corporation grants destined for clean-up campaigns. Each year, the KLEB organization convinces churches, scouts, nonprofits and civic groups to assist in beautification efforts, thus bolstering their chances to place first in the competition and thereby win the accompanying grant. When deciding on the winning municipalities in each category, the judges look at seven areas of concentration including: Community Leadership and Coordination; Public Awareness; Education; Beautification and Community Improvement; Litter Prevention and Cleanup; Solid Waste Management; and Litter Law and Illegal Dumping Enforcement. The organization remains undaunted and has already begun gathering data for next year's submission.

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EDUCATION

North Texas State Fair Association Announces 2018 Scholarship Recipients



Abby Wimmer



David Wright



Sterling Pieniazek

The North Texas State Fair Association has awarded three Denton County high school seniors scholarships. The scholarships awarded were the Bob C. Powers Scholarship, North Texas State Fair Association Scholarship and the Robert Bell Memorial Scholarship. These three individuals distinguished themselves through their educational achievement, their leadership and community involvement, and their involvement in agriculture. All of these recipients demonstrate the quality and character to lead our next generation and continue to promote the agriculture industry.

The North Texas State Fair Association Scholarship was awarded to the 2018 Valedictorian of Krum High School, Abby Wimmer. Abby has been involved in

FFA and agriculture leadership activities for the past 9 years. She has additionally been involved in multiple academic and social organizations throughout her high school career. Abby plans on attending Texas A&M University and majoring in Biomedical Sciences and minoring in Spanish with the intent of opening her own veterinary practice.

The Bob C. Powers Scholarship was awarded to the 2018 Salutatorian of Krum High School, Sterling Pieniazek. Sterling has been involved in 4-H, FHA and FFA for over 8 years and traveled all over the state and nationally competing in livestock shows and agriculture leadership activities. She has excelled inside and outside of the classroom and wants to continue her exemplary academic and leadership

success at Texas A&M University while majoring in Animal Science with a minor in Business.

The Robert Bell, Trade/Vocational, Scholarship was awarded to David Wright from Sanger, Texas. David has been involved in 4-H and FFA for over 6 years and has been a very active leader in his FFA Chapter, as well as participating in junior market shows and agriculture leadership events across the State of Texas. David will be attending Weber State University in the Fall and major in Manufacturing Engineering Technology with a Welding emphasis.

For further information, contact: Nanci Kimmey, North Texas State Fair Association, Executive Assistant, (940) 387-2632 nkimmey@ntfair.com

The Kid's Corral Hosted a Free Community Outreach Program



PROVIDENCE VILLAGE, TX- The Kid's Corral hosted a free Community Outreach program for families living in the 380 corridor. This is an

annual event in which members of the community can come together to learn more about the resources and activities available to families in the area. Special thanks to Carter Blood Care, Home Depot, Native Plant Society of Texas, Kidzania Dental and the Aubrey Fire Department for coming out to set up booths. Approximately 100 adults and children enjoyed crafts, gardening, bounce houses, rock and face painting and more! Next year the event will be held in June.

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AMS Seventh Grade Field Trip to San Antonio, Austin

Amy Ruggini



A highlight of the Aubrey Middle School's seventh grade is their annual Seventh Grade Field Trip to Austin and San Antonio in April. Four buses, 50 chaperones, 164 students and 10 staff members take a three-day bus trip down to San Antonio. The bus caravan stopped in Austin to tour the state capitol. They visited the Wonder World Park in San Marcos before making it in time for dinner in San Antonio. The jam-packed trip also included visits to the Buckhorn Museum, the Alamo, Ripley's Believe It or Not/Wax Museum, Historic Market Square and Sea World.

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- Local Parks
- Movies
- Whole lot of other fun places

It is hard to believe that end of the school year is almost here and the temperature has started rising. Well, we all know what does it mean?

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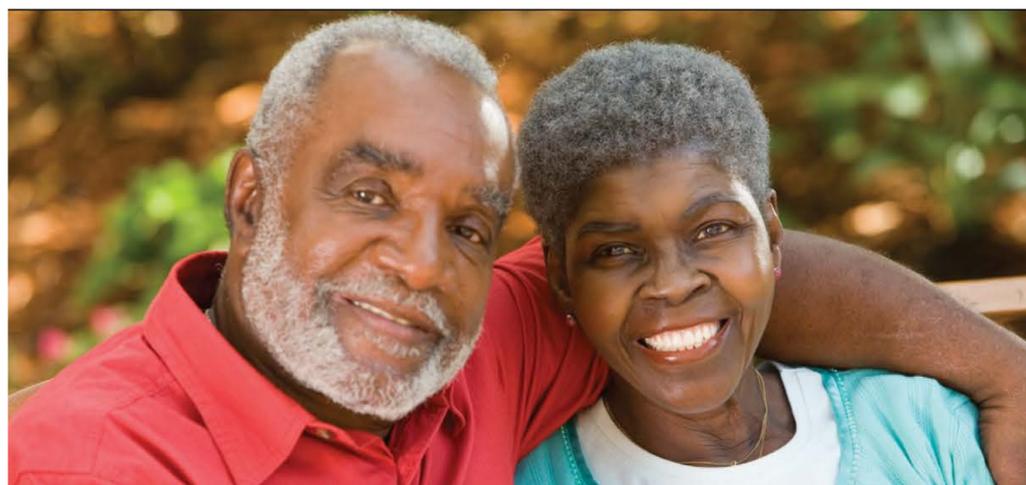
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HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

Do College Students REALLY Need Life Insurance?



Many people make the assumption that life insurance is for married couples and those with kids. While it is true that not all single people need life insurance, there are a number of reasons when it can make (really) good sense.

1. You have student loan debt. Many college students and graduates assume that your debt dies with you, but that's not always the case. While the loans through the federal government are discharged (aka forgiven) if you were to die, personal loans that have a cosigner are generally not. That means if your parents, for example, co-signed your student loan through a bank, they would be responsible for paying the rest of the loan if something happened to you. There are instances when the bank has called for the loan to be paid in full immediately following a death. You don't want to leave your parents dealing with grief and loan payments.

2. You're living with your significant other. When you're living together, a lot becomes

shared financial responsibility. Consider this example: You need both your incomes to meet the mortgage or rent where you're living. Have you thought about what happens if one of you dies prematurely? Would the other partner have to sell? Find a new place to live immediately? And this is just one example of many shared financial responsibilities couple have. Adequate life insurance is an easy answer to those questions.

3. You plan on having kids ... someday. It may not be now, but when kids do come, so do the expenses and bills. According to the USDA, it costs \$245,340 to raise a child to age 18, and that's without factoring in the cost of college. Getting life insurance in place now means you have coverage in place for when you do have a child. Plus, you protect your insurability for the future... and that leads us to the next reason.

4. You're young and healthy. Age and health are two major drivers of how much you'll be paying for life insurance. Why not lock in a low price if you have both of those working for you? Did you know that a healthy 30-year-old can get a 20-year \$250,000 term life insurance policy for about \$40 a month? Doable, right? Don't wait until a health issue or age puts life insurance out of your reach.

5. You know you'll be taking care

of family members in the future. This may mean aging parents or perhaps you have a special-needs sibling that you help care for and support financially. What would happen to them if something happened to you and your support disappeared? Life insurance can ensure that there is money in place to fund those needs into the future. This is where it might be wise to consider a permanent life insurance policy (one that's there for your lifetime, as long as you pay your premiums).

6. It will pay for your funeral. No one likes to think about such things, but the truth is when you die, someone will have to pay for your funeral. You wouldn't want to leave your parents, partner or other family members struggling with grief as well as paying for a funeral and burial, which can cost an average of \$10,000.

If any of this sounds daunting, just know that it doesn't have to be. You can start by contacting my office and completing a Life Insurance Needs Analysis at no cost. This will help you figure out how much you may need, and also find a policy that fits into your budget.

Jeffrey Clarke Farmers Insurance 202 South Coleman St Ste 200 Prosper, TX 75078 469-525-7407 (Office)

The Stretch 4 Life, There's an App for That

Lori Walter of Stretch 4 Life Shares info about her App



My App is coming soon!

The road to getting an App built has been an adventure! Let me share with you some of the pit falls of App building.

First let me tell you about my wonderful App that will be hitting an App Store near you in July.

The company that has built my App has done a wonderful job! They took my videos of self care active massage stretches and made it come to life.

My job is to guide a client into postural alignment through the muscles of your structure. I have used stretches on DVD's as homework between massage sessions to continue the self repair.

My App will contain a pocket version of tips on Wellness from stretches for Ailments such as headaches to acid reflux and many others as well. The main structural areas of need is postural alignment the difficult negotiations between muscles and our repetitive movements of the day.

On the App, you take the foot print test and then the App shows you the stretches to return blood flow back to the whole body.

The insider tip is that the App is user friendly.

Just a few tips to finding an App developer:

1) Make sure they are using the latest technology

2) They should have a wire frame presentation to show you

3) It should be in keeping with your website or design elements of your business

4) It should be compatible with both iTunes and Android without it costing extra

5) Find an App or two that you like so you have something to show the developer

6) Make sure that you have a timeline of progress from the developer

7) Do not pay the company until they have showed the set up on a Wireframe and worked out the time line with an accompanying budget that you and developer agree upon

8) Get several referrals from other companies who have used their services

9) Do not fall for the award winning company slogan because that doesn't mean the company has kept up with current technology

10) As with all things in business you need to feel comfortable with the developer

As always Wellness is my goal for all of you! Thank you for your time, Lori Walter

For more information please call Lori at 940.591.6491 or visit www.stretch4life.com

Meet Matt Thomas from Clear Aquatics

Background, what has brought you to Texas



Matt Thomas grew up in Little Elm where he graduated from Little Elm High School in 1986. After graduation from Little Elm High School, he went to work for a local company that relocated him to Florida and Georgia for about 10 years. After his stint away from Texas, he returned to the area in 2001 to be closer to family and friends. After a 25 year hiatus from school, he decided to attend Collin College where he earned his Associates Degree, then he finished his Bachelor Degree at Amberton University.

Business philosophy
"I believe that it is important to have a "can do attitude" and make sure that the customers' needs are addressed and satisfied," said Thomas, "This is accomplished by gaining trust through being dependable and

fairness with the work being done."

What sets your company apart?

Thomas is a local owner with a certified pool operator certificate. He always communicates with his clients to ensure their needs are met. He offers a reliable and professional pool service so your pool is always ready for family and friends to enjoy!

The main benefits of pool service

The use of a pool service company is beneficial for home owners because you have an experienced person monitoring water chemistry and equipment wear on a regular weekly inspection. This service allows stabilization with the water and repairs to be made before more expensive damage occurs.



If you have any questions about your pool service needs please contact Matt Thomas at Clear Aquatics, 972.679.2806.

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B BUSINESS & DEVELOPMENT

O'Dell Nursery Now Open



On April 29, several people in the community came out to help celebrate the Grand Opening of O'Dell Nursery. They are located on Highway 377 in Krugerville/Aubrey, TX. Drop in to see their beautiful assortment of flowers, trees and plants!

Texas First CAT Rentals Welcomed to the Little Elm 380 Corridor

Jim Manning



Peter J Holt, CEO of Holt Cat, cut the Grande Opening ribbon at the huge ceremony for Texas First CAT Rentals on Highway 380. Little Elm's Mayor Hillock welcomed them to the area and spoke on the process for partnering with them and wished them great success. The Little Elm Chamber of Commerce presided over the ribbon cutting. Vendors from all over Texas were present to talk to the many visitors.

Denton Energy Center to Begin Operations in July

City to Host Public Tours on June 15

DENTON, TX- The City of Denton and Denton Municipal Electric (DME) have announced that the Denton Energy Center (DEC) power plant will begin commercial operation on July 1. While the DEC has been going through testing throughout the spring, the commercial operation of the DEC will allow DME to begin providing wholesale power to the Texas grid.

"Since 1905, DME has maintained high quality, reliable electric service for Denton," said DME General Manager George Morrow. "Achieving commercial operation is a major milestone for the DEC project, DME, and the City of Denton as we continue our focus on providing exceptional service for our customers."

The DEC is a 225-megawatt, quick-start, natural gas-fired power plant comprised of 12 re-

proporting internal combustion engines and generators. Individually, each "gen set" weighs 416 tons and can generate up to 18.75 megawatts of electricity. The DEC includes advanced supervisory, safety, and emissions control systems; additional exhaust gas reduction equipment and noise reduction upgrades to the power blocks; and exhaust, fuel, and cooling water systems. The DEC took 423,000 man hours to construct, with up to 255 individuals working on site. The project was constructed with a focus on safety, which resulted in zero reportable safety incidents.

Construction on the DEC began in 2016, with the goal of providing a cost hedge during high-priced energy hours as Denton looked to expand its renewable portfolio. Currently, the City is taking steps to become 100 percent renewable by 2020.

DME will host public tours of the DEC on Friday, June 15 from 10 a.m. to noon. Tours will last approximately 15 minutes and will include access to the engine halls. Attendees must wear flat, close-toed shoes and long pants, while additional required safety equipment will be provided. Advance registration is not required, but is recommended as tour group sizes are limited. Attendees who do not register will be assigned to a tour on a first-come, first-served basis based on availability. Anyone wishing to tour the DEC can register at www.dmepower.com or contact Carrie Carson at (940) 349-7105.

Denton Municipal Electric (DME) Earns National Recognition for Reliability

DENTON, TX - Denton Municipal Electric (DME) was recently awarded with the platinum Reliable Public Power Provider (RP3) designation from the American Public Power Association (APPA). The RP3 designation is given to public power providers that have shown leadership in electric reliability, safety, workforce development, and system improvement. Prior to 2018, DME held the gold level RP3 designation.

"We are proud to achieve the platinum RP3 designation," said George Morrow, General Manager of DME. "Safety and reliability are essential in providing the city of Denton exceptional electric service. This recognition demonstrates DME's commitment to minimizing outages and injuries."

The RP3 designation, awarded by APPA, recognizes utilities that demonstrate high proficiency in a variety of areas related to reliability and that follow recognized industry-leading practices. To achieve an RP3 designation, utilities must complete a rigorous application that is reviewed by an 18-member panel of national public power experts. DME has been recognized as an RP3 utility since 2009.

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Point Bank in Aubrey Hosted Taste of Aubrey



The Aubrey branch of PointBank hosted The Taste of Aubrey for their Annual Mixer. Representing the Taste of Aubrey included: World Famous MOMS, Angenetta's Louisiana Restaurant, Turn 3 BBQ, Firehouse 52, Prairie House, Luigi's Pizza, Ernesto's, Chaparral Liquor, Fortunata Winery, and Western Son Distillery.

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SPIRITUAL

Area Church Directory

To include your church, please contact 380News at email us at admin@380News.com.

Assembly of God Hilltop Church
Aubrey First Assembly of God
819 W. Sherman Dr. in Aubrey
Trilogy Community Church
Cross Oaks Elementary School,
600 Liberty Blvd, Cross Roads, TX 76227
469.708.7654
www.trilogychurch.org

Baha'i Faith
Baha'i Faith In Aubrey
800-22-UNITE or 972-632-6904
www.bahai.org and www.bahai.us

Baptist
Antioch Baptist Church
Hwy 428 & Hwy 2931
Aubrey, Texas 76227

Bethel Baptist Church
210 E. Main Street
Aubrey, Texas 76258
903-429-3661

Calvary Baptist Church
Corner of 125 N. Jefferson & Walcott St., Pilot Point
www.calvarypilotpoint.com

Cowboy Church of Cooper Creek
3000 Rock Hill Rd.
Aubrey, TX 76227
972-841-3331
http://www.cowboychurchofcoopercreek.org/

Cross Fellowship Church
Meets at Savannah Elementary
1101 Cotton Exchange Dr
Aubrey, TX 76227
www.crossfellowship380.com

CrossRidge Church
1701 Walker Lane
(Across From Little Elm High School)
www.crossridgeonline.org
972-292-1953

First Rock Fellowship
201 N. Cherry Street, Aubrey
www.firstrockfellowship.org

First Baptist of Krugerville
Hwy. 377 South, Krugerville
www.fbckrugerville.com

Green Valley Baptist Church
9901 FM 428 in Aubrey
Living Word Baptist Church
2315 FM 720 West
Little Elm, TX 75068
(469) 362-9010
www.livingwordbaptist.net

Midway Baptist Church
Hwy. 377 North of Aubrey
940-365-9312
www.midwaychurch.org

Mustang Baptist Church
Corner of I-385 & Mustang Rd. in Aubrey
New Hope Baptist Church
Highway 377, South, Aubrey
www.newhopeaubrey.com

Prestonwood Baptist Church
1001 West Prosper Trail, Prosper, TX
972-796-6700

Providence Village Church
Providence Elementary
1000 FM 2931
Aubrey TX 76227
www.pbc380.com

Rhea's Mill Baptist Church
5733 North Custer Rd., McKinney
972-562-2947
www.rheasmill.org

Catholic
St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church
925 N. Charcut St., Pilot Point, TX 76258
940-686-2088
www.stthomaspilotpoint.org

St. Sophia Ukrainian Catholic Church
5600 North Colony Boulevard
The Colony, Texas 75066
(972) 370-4700
www.stsophiakrainian.cc

Christian
First Christian Church in Aubrey
410 N. Main St.
nlaccsw.org/pages/minisite_fc Aubrey home

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
First Christian Church
410 N. Main St. in Aubrey
First Christian Church of Denton
1203 Fulton Street
Denton, Texas 76210
www.fcddenton.org

Grace Christian Church
Baker Elementary School
Prosper ISD (Heatherwood Subdivision)
www.graceprosper.org

Church of Christ
Aubrey Church of Christ
910 S. Hwy. 377
Lake Dallas Church of Christ
504 Carlisle Dr.
Lake Dallas, TX 75065
940-497-5510

Rock Hill Church of Christ
9426 Rock Hill Road
Frisco, Texas
972-347-1919

Episcopal
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
420 South Coit Road
Prosper, TX 75078
972-347-9700
www.stpaulsprosper.org

Lutheran
Rejoice Lutheran Church (ELCA)
12000 Independence Pkwy, Frisco, Texas 75035
972-569-8185
www.RejoiceLutheran.com

Methodist
Aubrey First United Methodist
113 West Plum, Aubrey
www.aubreyfumc.com

Bethel Methodist Church of Denton County
3126 FM 2931, Aubrey Texas
409-543-8444
www.betheldenton.com

Button Memorial United Methodist Church
101 W. Eldorado Pkwy., Little Elm, TX. 75068
www.bmumc.org, 972-292-1465

Cross Way United Methodist
14632 Fishtrap Road, Aubrey, Texas 76227
www.crosswayumc.org

First United Methodist Church
217 S. Church St.
Pilot Point, TX 76258
(940) 686-2338

Harvest Bible Fellowship, CMC
3121 FM 2931
church.netministries.org/ch30630

New Leaf Church at Children's Lighthouse
3100 Woodlake Pkwy, Little Elm, Texas
972-325-8939
www.newleafnow.org

Oak Grove United Methodist
4725 FM 720 W.
(940) 365-3027
www.oakgroveunitedmethodist.org

Prosper United Methodist Church
205 S. Church St., Prosper
www.prosperumc.org
972-347-2372

Mormon
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
8801 Martop Road, Aubrey Texas 76227
www.llds.org

Non-Denominational
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City of Transformation Church
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www.cityoftransformation.org

Covenant Church Cross Roads Campus
8690 Liberty Road
Cross Roads, TX 76227
940-365-1395
www.covenantcrossroads.org

Covenant Word Ministries Church
1501 Bluebird Dr.
(Paloma Creek South Clubhouse)
Little Elm, TX 75068
www.covenantwordministrieschurch.org

Faith Assembly Church
700 N. Harmon Road, Aubrey, TX 76227
(940) 365-9360
aubreyfaithassembly.weebly.com

Gateway Church
7125 Legacy Drive
Frisco, 75034
Frs.GatewayPeople.com
469.238.1000

Grace Village Community Church
5325-B Highway 377
Krugerville, TX 76227
gracevillagechurch.org

Lighthouse Christian Fellowship
4331 E. Prosper Tr.
Prosper, TX 75078
972-562-2500
www.lighthousecnx.com

New Leaf Church
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3100 Woodlake Pkwy, Little Elm
www.newleafnow.org
972-325-8939

North Texas Trinity Cowboy Church
9901 FM 2164
Sanger, TX 76266
www.northtexascowboy.org

The Summit Church
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www.oursummitchurch.com
940-453-4152

Relate Church
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Cross Roads, TX. 76227
www.relatechurch.com

Restoration Cowboy Church
910 South Hwy 377
Aubrey, Texas 76227
Restorationcowboychurch.org
940-343-5377

Ridin' for the Brand Cowboy Church
5926 FM 455
Sanger, Texas 76266
www.ridinforthebrand.org
940-458-3076

Savannah Life Fellowship
1440 FM 2931, Suites B, D & E
Aubrey, TX 76227
940-453-3953
www.savannahlifechurch.com

Unity Spiritual Center of Denton
6071 New Hope Road
Krugerville, TX 76227
214-453-0218
www.unitydenton.com

Tabernacle Church
601 South Church Street
Prosper Texas 75087
Phone: 940-300-5310
www.tabernacle-church.com

Orthodox Churches
St. Maximus Orthodox Church
2026 W. Oak Street
Denton, TX 76201

Pentecostal
Cornerstone Church of Aubrey
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New Recycling Program Seeks to Liberate Trapped Water

PROSPER, TX- It's often a mindless toss, a plastic water bottle with a little bit of water gets thrown into a trash receptacle, an action that wastes the water in the bottle, misses the opportunity to recycle the plastic and takes up part of the dwindling space in a landfill.

To address those three wasteful issues, an idea to prevent them all at once sprang up in Prosper. Called the Release, Renew, Recycle Environmental Protection Program, the idea involved providing a place for the remaining water in plastic bottles to be usefully

deposited, a place for the plastic bottle to be recycled, and through that activity, prevent the bottle from ending up at the landfill.

Tristan Cisco, Prosper's Water Education Coordinator, solicited the assistance of the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service, Collin County Master Gardeners, Cristina's Stone and Garden Company, iCandy Grafix Company, members of the National Art Honor Society at Prosper High School, and the Town's Public Works and Parks and Recreation Departments.

The idea was to create large planter boxes, design some artwork and decorate them with recycling messages, add soil and living plants in them, and place them near places where plastic water bottles are in common use. The result was a way for anyone carrying a near-empty bottle of water to "release" the water into the planter, "renew" the plant life in the boxes by pouring the water into the planter, and "recycle" the bottle in a strategically-placed recycling bin.

The wooden planters, constructed by Public Works, feature artwork designed by the students, enrolled in the gifted and talented program, illustrating their purpose and wrapped with durable graphic vinyl by iCandy Grafix. The plants were chosen by the master gardener group and obtained from Cristina's Stone and Garden. Conceptual assistance was provided by the Agrilife Service. Currently, there are five Release, Renew, Recycle planters at Frontier Park, in close proximity to the athletic fields, where Parks personnel have observed countless water bottles in use.

"We're hopeful that the idea catches on," added Cisco. "If we can divert the water in the bottles and then the bottles themselves,

then we've met our goal. Hopefully, we can identify other locations around Town that would be ideal for more planters."

While the planters provide a perfect place for the water, trees, grass and shrubs can also benefit from watering, even in the small amounts left in bottles. Placing empties in the recycling bin ensures that the landfill remains free of items that can be reused in some way.

"Parents can use the program as a learning opportunity, enlightening their children, no matter the age, on the importance of water conservation and recycling," she said. "Participating in this program requires little to no effort yet can produce a huge impact on our environment. Anyone can do it."

Mayor Proclaims National Public Works Week



Mayor David Hillock proclaims the week of May 20-26, as National Public Works Week. With this proclamation he presented a certificate to Kevin Mattingly and the Public works representatives.

RTI in Little Elm Holds Brisket Cook-off



Employees of the Retractable Industries in Little Elm held their annual Brisket cook-off. The winners were: Judy Zhu, Pablo Benitez, and Miles Sheeder.

"So much of the plastic we use does not get properly recycled," said Cisco. "And, worse, half-filled bottles of water are thrown in the trash. The water winds up trapped in a plastic bottle at a landfill for who knows how long. It's a wasteful practice that we're trying to address."

Little Elm Council Members Sworn In



Town Secretary Kathy Phillips swears in the recently elected Council Members, Mayor Hillock, Councilman Nick Musteen, and Councilman Neil Blais. During this time they also received the Oath of Office.

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