

Duncanville Champion



March 2003

OTHER NEWS

Mayor's Open Line Friday

Mayor Repp makes himself available on the first Friday of each month to the citizens to discuss your concerns and ideas about the direction the city is going.

You can meet with Mayor Repp on the first Friday at Duncanville City Hall in the council chambers starting at 8:00 AM. He will be available until 11:00 AM.

So come by and meet with Mayor Repp on Friday, March 7th, 2003 from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM.

Mark Your Calendar

Easter Egg Hunt

April 19

10 a.m. Armstrong Park

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CHAMPION

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City Election Set for May 3rd

Preparations continue for the 2003 City Office election to be held Saturday, May 3rd according to City Secretary Jeanne Fralicks.

This year's slate of offices includes: Councilmembers to represent Districts 1, 3, and 5; District 2 Councilmember to fill an unexpired term created by the resignation of former Councilmember Steve Hamm on November 15, 2002; and, the at-large position created by an amendment to the City's Home Rule Charter last May.

David Green is currently serving his first term as District 1 Councilmember. Marilyn Massey



Continued on Page 2. See **Voting**

Can Watering Your Lawn Make You Sick?

What you put on your lawn could end up in your coffee or ice tea! It's true; here are three documented cases where this very thing happened.

From the ABPA News (American Backflow Prevention Association) January/February 2002.

Worms in His Coffee?

(Homeowner finds nematodes in his water)

Gene Reagan

Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (now Texas Commission on Environmental Quality T.C.E.Q)

A Keller, Texas homeowner was surprised to find dozens of squiggly little worms in his upstairs toilet bowl recently. Later, as he was pouring water into his coffee maker, he noticed something moving in the water—another little worm. He collected samples of the worms and presented them to Angela Wallis, Environmental Services Coordinator for the City of Keller Water Utilities Dept. Angela, who is also a Certified Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester, advised him they were nematodes and that they most likely come through his landscape irrigation system.

It turns out the irrigation system had a nine-year old double check valve assembly (DCVA) that had not been tested since it was installed. When the homeowner tried to turn off the water to the irrigation system at the device, both gate valve handles crumbled. He was able to turn one valve off with a wrench, though. The story gets a little more interesting. When the homeowner contacted a company to test the DCVA, the person who arrived to do the test told him it would be cheaper to replace the device than to test it. \$275 later, he had a new

Continued on Page 8. See **Backflow**

www.duncanville.com

City Information Index

Duncanville City Offices

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

City Manager's Office	972-780-5017
City Secretary	972-780-5004
Community Information	972-780-5043
Duncanville JobLine	972-780-5006
After Hours Calls	972-780-4959

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Development Director	972-780-5090
Marketing Director	972-780-5086

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief of Police	972-780-5038
Community Relations	972-780-5027
Criminal Investigations	972-780-5037
Animal Control	972-780-5025
Police Records	972-780-5024

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief	972-780-4920
Assistant Fire Chief	972-780-4921

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Director	972-780-5005
Municipal Court	972-780-5055
Teen Court	972-780-5063
Water Billing	972-780-5010

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Director	972-780-5076
Library	972-780-5050
Community Center	972-780-5070
Senior Center	972-780-5073
Armstrong Pool	972-780-5083
Event Rain-Out	972-949-2229

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Director	972-780-5015
Building Inspections	972-780-5040
Garage Sale Permits	972-780-5040
Health Officer	972-780-4963

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Radio	1250 AM
Internet	www.duncanville.com
Television	Charter Comm. Cable Channel 26

SPECIAL INTEREST NUMBERS

License Plate Renewal

Dallas County Govt. Center	214-653-7811
<i>Community Assistance</i>	
Duncanville Outreach	972-296-4986
<i>Chamber of Commerce</i>	
Chamber Offices	972-780-4990

Mayor & City Council Phone Numbers

Mayor Glenn Repp	972-298-0213
District 1 - David Green	972-780-0348
District 2 - Steve Hamm	972-709-7267
District 3 - Marilyn Massey	972-296-5993
District 4 - Grady Smithy	972-298-2775
District 5 - Jim Pyeatt	972-296-0132

Duncanville CHAMPION

is a monthly joint publication of the Duncanville Chamber of Commerce, Duncanville Independent School District and the City of Duncanville. For information, call the City's Community Information Office at 972-780-5043 or e-mail at kbilbrey@ci.duncanville.tx.us

City Elections set for May 3rd

Continued from page 1

represents District 3 and is completing her fourth term as Councilmember. District 5 is represented by Jim Pyeatt who is completing his second term.

The first day to file an application for a place on the ballot is Monday, February 17th. The application deadline is 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 19th. Applications for a place on the ballot are available at City Hall in the office of the City Secretary. City qualifications for candidacy include: qualified voter; resident of the State of Texas for one year; resident of the City and district for six months; and hold no other public office.

Early voting will be conducted Wednesday, April 16, 2003 through Tuesday, April 29, 2003.

Only registered voters residing in Districts 1, 2, 3 and 5 may vote for their respective candidates. All registered voters in the City of Duncanville will have the opportunity to vote for the newly created at-large position. Anyone not currently registered to vote has until April 3 to register in order to cast a ballot in the May election. Voter registration cards may be obtained at City Hall or the Duncanville Public Library. For more information regarding voter registration, residents may contact the Dallas County Elections Department at (214) 637-7937.

Additional information regarding the upcoming election may be obtained by contacting the City Secretary at (972) 780-5004.

Recycling Statement Dec. 2002

Commodity	Tons
Newspaper	62.29
Tin Cans	2.19
Milk Jugs (HDPE#2)	0.78
Plastic Containers	0.69
Aluminum Soda Cans	0.67
Trash	0.71
Mixed Household Paper	8.00
Total	75.33
This month your recycling saved:	
1195.05 Trees	
288,216.97 KWH of Energy	
492,077.75 Gallons of Water	
210.89 Cubic Yards of Landfill	
Reduced Air Pollution by 4,217.81 pounds	



Duncanville Digest

Natatorium to Close for Maintenance

The Duncanville ISD Natatorium is scheduled to be closed February 10 - March 26 for necessary equipment repair. To maintain a quality facility, the natatorium must be closed for these updates. The equipment repair was included in the October 2001 bond program.

Water Conservation Information

Try to do one thing each day that will result in saving water. Don't worry if the savings are minimal. Every drop counts. You can make a difference.

For further water saving tips, please call the Duncanville Public Works Water/Wastewater Division at 972-780-4900.

Duncanville ISD Begins a New Budgeting Process

The approaching 2003/04 budget year promises to offer extreme challenges to Duncanville ISD. As our district grows to accommodate new students, we must be mindful of meeting their needs but also of maintaining a solid fiscal future. We are implementing a new budget process in the district that forces us to evaluate the importance of every function within each department. If we simply move our current budget forward without any reductions, then we will not have enough new revenue to cover the new added costs. The new process boils down to this: since we have limited resources, we need to ensure that we do first things first - - that is, ensure that we fund our priorities first.

The Board of Trustees adopted the budget process at the January 13 regular meeting. The process includes the following steps:

1. Board adopts a set of budgeting assumptions and principles:
 - Maintain a balanced Maintenance & Operations Budget.
 - District goals and legal requirements shall determine budget priorities.
 - Some items in the budget are of more importance than other items. Therefore, items of higher priority shall be funded before items of lower priority.
 - Budgets will be program-, priority-, and zero-based.
 - An advisory committee of citizens and educators shall assist the Board in establishing priorities, but the Board shall maintain final say as to priorities.
2. Staff develops program budget packages.
3. Board approves negotiable and non-negotiable budget packages.
4. "First Things First!" committee of 100+ citizens and educators recommends priorities negotiable budget packages.
5. Board analyzes recommendations and finalizes negotiable budget packages.

School District Finance is a function of three elements:

1. Tax Rate
2. Property Wealth
3. Student Enrollment

As property values go up, state funding goes down.

If Duncanville ISD gains 200 students as projected next year, then the district will receive \$713,000 **LESS** money from the state.

2003/04 Budget

Considerations:

- Employee Compensation: salaries insurance
- Additional personnel
- Opening two new campuses

Suggested timeline for budget preparation:

Board adopts process - January 13 (complete)
 Staff develop budgets - January - March
 "First Things First!" - Committee meets - April
 Board finalizes packages - May - June

Announcements:

Project Child Find: Do you know of a child, aged birth to 21, who needs special help to succeed in school, or who is not developing on level, or who is not currently receiving services? If you do, please contact the Duncanville I.S.D. Office of Student Support at 972.708.2100.

Duncanville ISD provides a great deal of information to campuses regarding the prevention of drug and alcohol abuse.

This information also includes strategies for a violence-free environment. The curriculum used by campuses is entitled "D.A.V.E." (Drug and Violence Education). This curriculum is for students K - 12 and is aligned with the T.E.K.S. (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) and includes goals, objectives, and is accompanied with lesson plans. A K-12 newsletter entitled Helping Hands was added this school year as a resource for parents. These newsletters are sent in all student report cards regarding drug and violence prevention. For more information about Duncanville ISD Drug and Violence prevention programs, contact Joyce Walters at 972.708.3984.

Duncanville ISD will celebrate June 11, 2003 as national "Take Our Daughters to Work Day" with other Region X school districts.

Construction Update Current Bond Projects

C.J. and Anne Hyman Elementary
 J.R. Bilhartz, Jr. Elementary
 Alexander Elementary classroom addition

DHS Phase III

Baseball & Softball field improvements
 Utilities for Phase IV & V
 Demolition of High Hat Gym (complete)
 Natatorium - new equipment (post season)

DHS Phases IV & V

New DHS classroom addition & cafeteria
 New competition gym and practice gyms.

Fun In Duncanville

KARATE

Learn serious self-defense oriented Matsamura Kenpo Shorn Ryu Karate. Instructors for children & adults; family discounts available.

**Duncanville Community Center
Aerobics Room**

Kids age 7+: T/TH 7:15-8:15 PM
Adults: T/TH 7:15-8:30 PM

Central Gym

Open: Sat 9-10:00 AM

Cost: \$25/Month-Students, \$40/Month-Adults

Instructors: Kris Howerton @ 972-393-0782/ Bob Finley @ 972-298-2021.

AIKI JUTSU

Samurai defense based on leverage, not strength

Fairmeadows Elementary Gym

Tues./Thurs. 7:30 -9PM

Age: 10+

Cost: \$20/month

Instructor: Doug Johnson@ 972-283-1094

WOMEN WARRIORS SELF-DEFENSE SEMINAR

There is still time and room to sign up for the March 2003 Seminar. Class will meet on Friday evening & Saturday morning Recreation Center

Cost: \$60

Instructor: D.L. Burt

Register at the Recreation front desk

Class begins March 28th and 29th

For additional information please call the center or E-mail Mr. Burt at

crusades@gte.net.

CROP 'TIL YOU DROP

Monthly Crop 'Til You Drop Session

Bring photos and work on your album.

You must pre-register and pay instructor by the Wednesday before the class is to meet. For more information call 972-298-4006.

March 14

6:00pm-12am

Cost: \$10.00

Hopkins Senior Center

Instructor: Kim Spurlock

DEFENSIVE DRIVING

Got a ticket? Or just want a discount on your auto insurance.

Class is sponsored & certified by the National Safety Council.

March 17 & 18, 2003

6pm-9pm (Must attend both days)

Registration Deadline: Friday, March 14 @ 5:00 PM

(Must have 6 registered by deadline to have class)

Duncanville Community Center

201 James Collins

Cost: \$25

Instructor: Doug Rorie

JAZZERCISE

Fresh moves, new music, pure motivation.

Mon & Wed -Jazzercise Step 6:30p-7:30p

Tues. & Thurs.-Jazzercise 6:20p-7:05p

Sat.-Jazzercise 9a-10 a

MON/WED/SAT IN WEST GYM

TUE/THU IN AEROBICS ROOM

All classes emphasize low-impact, high energy moves.

Bring your own weights & mat. Tube/step/stability ball provided.

\$7 walk-in. \$70 8-wks.

\$29 Bank Draft (no contracts-no memberships)

New Clients: 1 week FREE with 8-class purchase.

Certified Instructor: Sheilla (SHAY-la)

Instructor phone: 972-709-6441

More info??? www.jazzforhealth.com

MORNING YOGA

Learn basic yoga postures designed to celebrate the spine.

Class meets Tuesday & Friday from 10a - 11:30a

Recreation Center - Aerobics Room

Class Fee: \$14 weekly (\$7 per class)

Register at Recreation Center - Front Desk

Instructor: Carolyn Smith

This class meets weekly

Attire: Comfortable clothes & tennis shoes.

Bring a towel and sticky mat

For more info call 972/780-5070

ROBIX FITNESS: AEROBICS & YOGA

Fall Back Into Fitness....

**Duncanville Community Center
Aerobics Room**

Mon/Wed-Muscles 'n' Motion 5:45p-6:30p

Mon/Wed- Step 'n' Motion 6:30p-7:30p

Sat.-Cardio Combo 9:00a-10:30a

Sat.-Yoga Fit 10:45a-11:45a

Hopkins Senior Center

Tues/Thurs-Yoga Fit 5:45p-6:45p

Tues/Thurs-Cardio-Quick/Low Impact

Aerobics 7:00p-7:45p

(Old moves are new again! Great feel-good workout!! Less joint stress!!!)

PLEASE ARRIVE 15-MINUTES EARLY TO REGISTER @ THE CLASS.

For beginners, regular exercisers; 16+

Cost: \$5.00 walk-in; \$28/8 classes; \$65/3month/unlimited classes

Materials needed: Bring exercise mat & hand/ankle weights for aerobic & toning classes;

Bring Yoga sticky mat, folded blanket, & towel for all yoga classes.

Instructor: Roseanna Needham-Dryden, B.S. Instructor Phone: 972-709-1906

Email:

fitness_in_duncanville@yahoo.com

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND SPONSORSHIP FOR THE 10TH ANNUAL "ToS IT" TROUT FISH-OUT.

The City Of Duncanville Parks and Recreation Department would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our 2003 Trout Fish Out sponsors. Also our thanks to all the volunteers and the 850 participants that assisted and supported this event.

Event Sponsors: Duncan Disposal Service Company, Texas Oil X-Change, Sandwackers & Jimmy's Great China Resturant.

Food For Volunteers: Domino's Pizza, Papa John's Pizza, & Luby's.

Prize Sponsors: Applebee's, Bennigan's, Carolyn Smith Yoga, Cheddars, Chick-Fil-A, Chili's, Ci Ci's Pizza, Colters Bar-B-Q, Dairy Queen, Dallas Stars, Dr Pepper Star Center, Duncanville Community Theatre, International House Of Pancakes, Macaroni Grill, Nelson's Flowers, Office Depot, Panchos, Pizza Hut, Pizza Inn, Popeyes, Remede Body & Skin Spa, Rockfish Grill, Sam's Club, Sandwackers, Sonic Drive-In, Sonny Bryans Smoke House, Steak & Ale, Texas Oil X-Change, Texas Rangers, Whataburger

K-CHAT

Chat seminar with teens 10 to 16. Our future for tomorrow. Enjoy Q & A, Goodies, and Door Prizes. Alcohol/Drugs Awareness & Driving Program

Class meets Thursday - 4:30p-6p

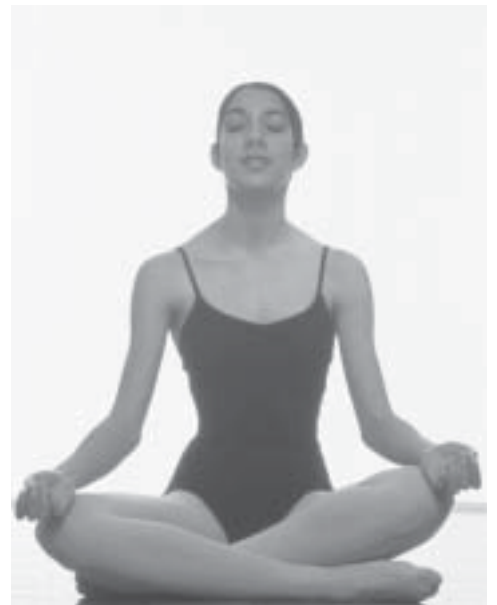
Class Fee: \$15 Weekly

Recreation Center - Meeting Room

Instructor: Kathryn Thompson

Register at Recreation Center - Front

Desk. For additional information call 972/572-8262



March 2003

TEXAS DANCE AND CHEER

Learn chants, jumps, dance routines & more.

Class meets Thursday 6p - 7p, ages 4 to 7 and 7p to 8p, ages 8 & up

Merrifield GYM

Registration Fee: \$8 on first meeting

Class Fee: \$7 each class meeting

Register at class

Instructor: Diversified Youth Services

T-shirts, & shorts are available for order at class.

Attire: T-Shirts, shorts or warm-ups and

White-soled tennis

For more info call 972/208-6697

INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCE POINTE CLASS

Designed for people who want to learn the basics and for those already on point.

Duncanville Community Center

Aerobics Room

Class Meets: Monday's 7:45-9:00 pm

Fee: \$47/month for 1 class/wk;

Instructor: Vicki Shamburger (214) 244-8011

RUDELYA'S MACHINE QUILTING/SEWING

Sewing and Quilting for people who don't have

time to sew. This class is designed for people

who want to learn or have some sewing experience.

Students will bring supplies & person portable sewing

machine! Class also includes quick and easy craft projects

Tuesday class - 6p to 7:30p

Recreation Center Meeting Room

Class fee: \$35 Plus supplies

Instructor: Rudelya Porter

Minimum 5 students class minimum.

Register at Recreation Center - Front Desk

Registration Deadline February 3, 2003

Class begins - March 4, 2003

For more information call 214/341-8693

SELF-DEFENSE/ANTI-KIDNAPPING

Class meets Monday 6p - 7p for ages 4 to 6:

7p to 8p for ages 7 to 9, & 8p-9p for ages 10 & up

Merrifield gym

Registration Fee: \$8 on first meeting

Class Fee: \$7 each class meeting

Register at class

Instructor: Diversified Youth Services

Uniform is available but not mandatory.

An Alert Child of Texas T-Shirt available for purchase

For more info call 972/208-6697

ADULT DANCE CLASS

Beginner Swing and Ballroom Dance I

Both forms of dance will attract all music lovers. Learn to dance to Big Band, 50's Rock and Roll, Contemporary Rock, to name a few.

Swing/Jitterbug: Monday 7p to 8pm (9 wk sessions)

Ballroom Dance: Monday 8p to 9pm (9 wk sessions)

D. L. Hopkins Center

Cost: Couples Only/\$45 per person

Instructor: Roger Chartier

Register at Recreation Center Front Desk

Registration Deadline 3/22/03

Next session begins March 24th. Singles are welcome. We ask that you bring and register a friend to ensure you a partner for this class. 6 couples Class Minimum

For additional information call 972/780-5070

DISTINCT DANCE

Class meets Friday 5:30p - 6:30p, ages 4 to 7;

6:30p - 7:30p for ages 8 & up

Recreation Center - Aerobics Room

Registration Fee: \$8 on first meeting

Class Fee: \$7 each class meeting

Register at class

Instructor: Diversified Youth Services

No required uniform for the classroom.

We offer optional uniforms for purchase.

For more info call 972/208-6697

TANYA FRANKLIN'S ELITE CHARM CLASS

"Be The Best You Can Be" This class helps build

Self-confidence and self-esteem in your children. Give

them the gift that last a lifetime! This Class includes

improved social skills, communication and more.

Class meets Sunday at 4p to 5:30p.

Recreation Center - Meeting Room

Class Fee: \$99 per session (session includes 5 weeks)

Instructor: Tanya Franklin

Register at Front Desk - Minimum 5 students needed.

New class beginning March 16th, 2003

For questions/info please call 972/296-8409.

KYUDO (Japanese Archery)

Alexander Elementary Gym

Sunday's 2:00pm-5:00pm

Cost: \$18/Month

Instructor: Mark Wegmann

214-324-8906

AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

This program is offered January 2003 Through May 30, 2003 (During School Year). Program will not meet on school in-service days, other school off days or City Holidays. Register today and pick up an Application

Where: Duncanville Recreation Center - Front Desk

When: Monday through Friday 3pm to 6pm

Who: Youth ages 7 to 14 residing in Duncanville ISD

Cost: \$40 monthly

For additional information call 972/780-4970.

PRAISE DANCING

Classes are forming for Praise/Liturgical Dance Workshop

All ages - Class meets Saturday from 3:45pm-5pm

Recreation Center - Aerobics Room

Class Fee: \$55 monthly

Instructor: Consuela Holmes

Register early - Class Begin March 8th, 2003.

Please call 972/780-5070 for additional information

TEXAS STARLETS

Each Child will learn basic to advance Cheerleading, Techniques, chants, jumps, stunts, cheers, dance, Motions, tumbling, bank chants, and more

Group ages 4 to 18 will meet Tuesday from 4:30p-7p

Mini/small group - 4:30p to 5:45p

Varsity/super group - 5:45p to 7p

Register at Recreation Center - Front Desk

Class Fee: mini/small class - \$40/month

Class Fee: super/varsity class - \$45/month

Next Class: March 4th, 2003

Instructor: Coach Charlene Bartely

For additional information call 972/977-6920 or

972/522-1181 (Charlene)

DRUG & ALCOHOL DRIVING AWARENESS PROGRAM

Approved for 5% Insurance Discount for Texas Drivers 18 and up. Court Approved referrals from Municipal and JP Courts will be honored. Program Target Youthful Drivers & Zero Tolerance Laws & more

Class meets Saturdays - 10am - 4pm

Recreation Center - Meeting Room

Each class session is for 6 hours

Class fee for insurance discount: \$40

Court Ordered class fee: \$60

Class begins: February 1, 2003

Instructor: Kathryn Thompson

Register at Recreation Center - Front Desk.

For additional information call 972/572-8262

Spanish Story Times *Every* Wednesday

Two former public school teachers, Valois Hounsel and Carmen Boyle, are taking turns at presenting Spanish Story Times. Now, any Wednesday morning at Duncanville Public Library anyone can drop in and enjoy children's literature in Spanish

From now through March 29, Duncanville Public Library weekly programs are *Nursery Rhyme Time* (Mondays at 10:15 AM), *Home School Videos* (Tuesdays at 2 PM), *Spanish Story Times* (Wednesdays from 10:15 AM), *Library Storytime* (Thursdays at 10:15), and *Library Storytime for Groups* (Fridays at 10:15). Programs and tours for groups of five or more are by appointment only.

The library's weekly *Animal Life for Children* video presentation allows home-school students, ages 4-10, an opportunity to observe animal behavior and habitat. Each regular Thursday Story Time introduces children to a different place with stories from jungles, cities, forests, and islands.

The *Dad's Night Out Series* continues each first-Tuesday-of-the-month with a 7 p.m. puppet show. March 4-*Mother Goose*, April 1-*Walk-About-Theater*, and May 6-*Sock Puppet Craft*. The *Friends of the Duncanville Public Library* offer these shows free to everyone.

Campus Teachers of the Year selected

Duncanville ISD congratulates the 2003 Campus Teachers of the Year. These gifted educators will represent their campuses at the Annual Employee Awards Banquet on May 12. The district Elementary and Secondary Teachers of the Year will be announced at this event.

Acton Elementary
Eunice Hamlin

Fairmeadows Elementary
Kristen Kirkevold

Alexander Elementary
Virginia Fisher

Hardin Intermediate
Ty Jones

Brandenburg Intermediate
Angela Taggart

Hastings Elementary
Blanca Patlan

Byrd Middle School
Janna Allen & Rick Griffin

Merrifield Elementary
Kristin Ruff

Central Elementary
Ray Gutierrez

PACE
Karen Wilson

Daniel Intermediate
Peter Eck

Reed Middle School
Marilyn Smith & Connie Turk

Duncanville Ninth Grade School
Bill Young & Media Smith

Smith Academy
Jan Sheppard

Duncanville High School
Thomas Cyprian, Glenn Detgen,
& Kay Jackson

Summit
Ron DiGiacomo

March

4 • Duncanville City Council Meeting. 7 p.m. at City Hall. 203 E. Wheatland.

5 • Teen Court. 5 p.m. at City Hall. 203 E. Wheatland.

7 • Mayor's Open Line Friday 8 - 11 a.m. Council Chambers at City Hall. 203 E. Wheatland.

10 • Duncanville ISD School Board Meeting. 7 p.m. at DISD Administration Building.

10-14 • Duncanville ISD Spring Break.

19 • Last day to file application for place on the City Council ballot. For more information, call City Secretary at (972) 780-5004.

18 • Duncanville City Council Meeting. 7 p.m. at City Hall. 203 E. Wheatland.

24 • Duncanville ISD School Board Meeting. 7 p.m. at DISD Administration Building.

26 • Teen Court. 5 p.m. at City Hall. 203 E. Wheatland.

27-29 and April 3-5 • "You Can't Take It With You" presented by the Duncanville Community Theatre located at 106 S. Main Street. 8 p.m. Call (972) 780-5707 for reservations.

Mark Your Calendar

Easter Egg Hunt

April 19

10 a.m. Armstrong Park



Practice, Practice, Practice

Prepare for a Fire

Develop a Family Disaster Plan. Home fire-specific planning should include the following:

If smoke alarms are not already in place, install them outside each sleeping area and on each additional level of your home in accordance with local codes. Smoke alarms cut your chances of dying in a home fire nearly in half. Smoke alarms sense abnormal amounts of smoke or invisible combustion gases in the air. They can detect both smoldering and flaming fires. The *National Fire Alarm Code*® (NFPA 72) now requires hard-wired smoke alarms in new homes.

Draw a floor plan of your home; mark two fire escape routes for each room. In thick, heavy, dark smoke it is easy to become disoriented. Creating a floor plan with two routes greatly helps everyone understand the safest routes during a frightening emergency.

Consider escape ladders for sleeping areas on the second or third floor. Learn how to use them, and store them near the window. If main escape routes via stairs are blocked by smoke or fire, the windows may be your only alternative. Escape ladders permit quick exits, reducing time spent in smoke-filled, toxic environments while waiting for firefighters.

Burglar bars and locks that block outside window entry must be easy to open from the inside. If a key is required to open bars or locks, keep a key near each window to use for fire escape. Quick-release devices are available for security bars. If smoke or fire is blocking the main exit, you must be able to use your alternate routes quickly. Fire deaths have occurred when people were trapped by security bars and were unable to get out and firefighters were unable to get in.

Select a safe outside meeting place for everyone to meet after escaping from a fire. Make sure it will be a safe distance from heat, smoke, and flames. Family members may use different escape routes, exiting on different sides of the home. Gathering in a specific meeting place in front of the home will quickly let you know who is out, and allow you to advise firefighters of who may need help and their probable location inside.

Conduct a home fire drill at least twice a year with all members of your household. Fires produce thick, dark smoke that irritates the eyes and breathing passages and can cause confusion. People who have become disoriented in fires have been found in closets, stairwells, and laundry rooms, thinking they were exits. Practicing your plan makes the actual response more of an appropriate reaction, requiring less thinking during an emergency situation.

■ **Practice alerting other household members.** Yell "Fire!" several times during your escape. In a real fire this will alert family members to get out.

■ **Practice a crawl-low escape from your bedroom, as if you were crawling under a layer of smoke.** Fires produce many toxic gases. Some are heavy and will sink low to the floor; others will rise, carrying soot towards the ceiling. Crawling with your head at a level of one to two feet above the ground will temporarily provide the best air. Close doors behind you.

■ **Practice evacuating the building blindfolded.** In a real fire situation, the amount of smoke generated by a fire will most likely make it impossible to see.

■ **Learn the emergency number for your local fire department.** After leaving your home, you will need to call this number from an outside phone or from a neighbor's house.

■ **Teach family members to get out first, then call for help from a neighbor's house or outside phone.** Get out of the house, away from toxic smoke and gases. If a portable phone is handy during your escape, you may take it with you, but do not waste precious time looking for one. Use your neighbor's phone, a car phone, or nearby pay phone to call for help.

■ **Practice getting out of your home during the day and night.** Fire can happen at any time. Practicing your routes at night will help you move more quickly should a fire strike in the dark.

Discuss fires with your family. Everyone should know what to do in case all family members are not together. Discussing disaster ahead of time helps reduce fear and lets everyone know how to respond during a fire.

For more information on this and other fire related information contact the Duncanville Fire Department or N.F.P.A. website at www.nfpa.org.



Backflow Prevention is Key to Clean Water

Continued from page 1

DCVA. However, the homeowner later discovered that the company did not obtain a permit from the city, nor had they tested the new device.

At the time of this writing, Ms. Wallis is investigating possible City of Keller ordinance violations. The TNRCC Landscape Irrigation Program is inquiring into possible violations of State law...

As this letter indicates this is a very real concern. Here is another incident to ponder. This one affected more than one residence:

From the *Drinking Water & Backflow Prevention Publication, Volume 9 Number 6 (June 1992)*

On October 1, 1991, two homeowners in the City of Southgate, Michigan, found parasitic worms, or nematodes, in their water. One homeowner found the worms swimming around in his bathtub when he started filling the tub for his child. He also found rust and other debris in his water. The Wayne County Health Department determined that water had backflowed through a residential irrigation system into the public water system.

An atmospheric vacuum breaker on the residential irrigation system had malfunctioned because the device's air inlet valve had stuck to the device's air inlet port. There was a water main break, which caused a vacuum in the public water system. The vacuum in the public water system sucked some water- and some nematodes- from the irrigation system into the public water system.

Crews from the City's Department of Public Services opened fire hydrants and flushed all the water mains located three blocks north and south of where the backflow incident occurred. Analysis of subsequent water samples collected by the Department of Public Services showed no detectable coliform bacteria.

The County cited the owner of the irrigation system for improper installation of the system. The contractor that this resident employed to install the irrigation system did not have a city permit and used a "cheap" atmospheric vacuum breaker...

These are just a fraction of the reported incidents; it has been estimated that for every incident reported that dozens of others go un-reported.

The City of Duncanville began an intensive backflow and cross-connection inspection program in 2000 per State Law and has been adopted into City Ordinance. The first phase of this program focused on potential industrial hazards and is almost complete. The next phase addresses landscape irrigation. For our citizens protection and the safety of the public water supply all landscape irrigation systems will be required to have a minimum of a Double Check Valve Assembly (DCVA) that will require testing on an annual basis. In addition all outside faucets must be fitted with a Hose Bib Vacuum Breaker (HBVB). This vacuum breaker is a relatively cheap item that can be installed by the homeowner. It is recommended that you contact your preferred irrigation company and have an assessment performed on your system. This will determine if you have the proper devices in place. The next step will be to have the device tested. This test can be performed by anyone who is currently certified as a "Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester" through the State of Texas. This tester *must* be registered with the City of Duncanville and meet all the requirements set forth by the current ordinance. You can obtain a current list of testers from Building Inspections at City Hall. Or call 972-780-4946 for more information. Lets work together to keep our water safe and clean for all our citizens.

PLEASE TAKE TIME TO FILL OUT THE ATTACHED SURVEY AND MAIL TO:

City of Duncanville
Public Works Department
P.O. Box 380280
Duncanville TX 75138-0280
Attn: Red Taylor - Cross Connection Inspector

LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION SURVEY

- | | | | |
|----|--|-----|----|
| 1. | Does your property have an irrigation system: | Yes | No |
| 2. | Do you know the date of installation: | Yes | No |
| 3. | Do you know if it has a backflow assembly: | Yes | No |
| 4. | If yes do you have it tested annually: | Yes | No |
| 5. | Would you care for a courtesy inspection by the cross connection control officer | Yes | No |

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Best time to call: _____