



### OTHER NEWS

#### Citizens Police Academy Seeking Applicants

The next Citizens Police Academy is scheduled to begin on September 9, 2003. For more information contact Pug Pagliara or Officer Eddie Edwards at 972-780-5027.



## City Adopts New False Alarm Ordinance

At its August 19<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Duncanville City Council voted to adopt a new ordinance that amends Chapter 12 of the Code of Ordinances as it relates to false alarms.

"The police department has experienced an ever increasing number of false alarm calls," said Duncanville Chief of Police Jack Long. "Annually it requires 1.6 officers to answer false alarm calls."

False alarm calls over the last 3 years			
Year	Alarms known	False Alarms	% False
2000	- 5003	4994	99%
2001	- 5387	5375	99%
2002	- 5002	4992	99%
2003*	- 1938	1933	99%
*to date			

Under the old ordinance homeowners and businesses were not required to pay a permit fee. Additionally they were allowed five (5) false alarms (as provided by state law) and after the five false alarms, a fee of \$50 was charged. According to Duncanville Police Chief Jack Long, the \$50 fee was an ineffective tool.

"Basically the ordinance had no 'teeth' and the fee was paid on the honor system," explained Long. "Some paid the fee, but most did not."

Under the new ordinance there will be a **\$35 annual fee** for homeowners and businesses to register their alarms. Also, the ordinance regulates burglar, robbery, panic and fire alarms.

"The new ordinance still calls for a **\$50** fee after five false alarms. However, if a homeowner or business does not pay the \$50 fee, it will result in a class 'c' misdemeanor with a fine up to \$500," said Long.

The newly adopted ordinance is consistent with a growing trend in the public safety sector.

"Another change to the ordinance is that if we have notified a non-permitted location of the need for a permit, and they do not comply, then the police and fire departments will no longer respond to the alarm call."

See **Alarm Ordinance** page 2

## Champion Goes Electronic

The "print" version of the Duncanville Champion has gone through many changes.

Starting out as the **City Star** in April of 1989 as a quarterly citizen newsletter, it then changed to a monthly newsletter in November of 1991.

Then in January of 1997, the **City Star** became the **Duncanville Champion** and continued to serve as a citizen newsletter, covering the City, School District and Chamber of Commerce.

Now it is time for another change.

While the **Champion** has been available via the city's website for some time, starting in October the **Champion** will be available only electronically.

"Because of our budget situation, we had to look for ways to cut costs and the newsletter appeared to be a service that we could still offer, just not in print and not mailed to every household within our city limits and

See **Champion** page 8

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## 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

Library	972-780-5050
Community Center	972-780-5070
Senior Center	972-780-5073
Armstrong Pool	972-780-5083
Director	972-780-5076

#### 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 - Scott Cannon III	972-298-8098
District 3 - Marilyn Massey	972-296-5993
District 4 - Grady Smithey	972-298-2775
District 5 - Jim Pyeatt	972-296-0132
At Large - Dorothy Burton	972-296-8844

### 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

# Live at the Duncanville Public Library

The *Library Live Entertainment Series* begins on Tuesday, September 2, with a performance of the Pirtles. These educators involve children in communicating through feelings, song, instruments, and sign language. Each first-Tuesday-of-the-month the public is invited to attend a 7 p.m. show presented by professional children's entertainers, Sept. 2, Oct. 8, Nov. 4, and Dec. 2. *Pizza Hut* offers these shows free to everyone.

Mike Lewis of *Party Pets*, is celebrating the Fall 2003 Storytime theme "Animals!" by bringing LIVE ANIMALS to the library Thursday morning, Sept. 11. The videos - on 16 different Physical Science Topics - give home-school students an opportunity to observe examples of forces such as matter, light, sound, air and gravity. Videos begin each Tuesday at 2 PM and last 23 minutes. Children can practice Spanish Thursday afternoons with Valois Housel and Carmen Bolye during the 2 PM Spanish Storytime. Back-Pack Monsters, Dinosaur Dioramas, and Animal Masks are a few of the items Maureen Parker is setup to help children (ages 5 to14) put together on some Saturday mornings this Fall at 10:15.

Beginning Sept. 8 and lasting through Dec. 19, Library weekly programs are *Nursery Rhyme Time* (Mondays at 10:15 AM,) *Home School Videos* (Tuesdays at 2 PM,) *Library Storytime* (Thursdays at 10:15 AM,) and *Spanish Storytime* (Thursdays at 2 PM.) *Crafts by Maureen Parker* are scheduled for 10:15 AM only on the Saturdays of Sept.13, Oct. 4, Oct. 25, and Nov.15. Programs and tours for groups of five or more are available by appointment only.

## False Alarm Ordinance Adopted

*continued from page 1*

The ordinance also states that a permit may be revoked after ten (10) false alarm calls. After that police and fire will not respond to the alarm

"If the permit holder continues to pay the \$50 fee after the five false alarms allowed by state law, then police and fire will continue to respond," explained Long.

Within 60 days, those businesses and residences in Duncanville that currently have an alarm system will need to contact the police department and register their systems. The police department can be contacted at 972-780-4992.

## Duncanville Digest

### Mayor's Open Line Friday Cancelled for September

The Mayor's Open Line Friday is cancelled for the month of September. Please look for the Mayor's Open Line Friday to return in October.

### Water Conservation Information

**Retrofit all household faucets by installing aerators with flow restrictors to slow the flow of water.**

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

# Duncanville ISD goes Back To School!

*Please support our students as they participate in. . .*

*. . . elementary school activities.  
. . . Panther Football practice.*



*. . . preparation for the upcoming marching band season.*



*Photos provided by DHS student photographers.*



*. . . eagerly awaiting the completion of the Duncanville High School and other construction projects within the district.*

Duncanville ISD welcomed students back on Monday, August 18. Two new elementary schools opened on the first day of school, which makes 18 campuses in our Duncanville ISD family of schools. Please join us in beginning a great school year by supporting school children and their activities! We are eager for parents and community patrons to attend school events and volunteer as Champions for Children!

For your convenience, the DHS Varsity Volleyball and DHS Varsity Football schedules are listed below. For a listing of other school activities, including additional athletic schedules and directions to all locations, visit our web site at [www.duncanvilleisd.org](http://www.duncanvilleisd.org).

## Varsity Volleyball 2003

Fri, Aug 15 - Cleburne (scrimmage), 5 pm - There  
Sat, Aug 16 - Rockwall/Crandall, 10 am - Rockwall

Tue, Aug 19 - Berkner/Garland, 6 pm - Berkner  
Fri/Sat, Aug 22/23 - Tournament of Champions, TBA - Here  
Tue, Aug 26 - Turner/



*. . . extracurricular activities and academic growth.*

Midlothian, 5:30 pm - Turner  
Fri/Sat, Aug 29/30 - Haltom Tournament, 7 pm - Haltom  
Tue, Sep 2 - Horn/N. Mesquite, 5:30 pm - Here  
Fri/Sat, Sep 5/6 - Arlington Tournament, TBA, TBA  
Mon, Sep 8 - Greenhills/Lake Highlands, 5:30 pm - Greenhills  
Fri, Sep 12 - Cedar Hill \*, 6:30 pm - There  
Tue, Sep 16 - Open date  
Fri, Sep 19 - DeSoto\*, 6:30 pm - Here  
Tue, Sep 23 - Summit \*, 6:30 pm - Here  
Fri, Sep 26 - Weatherford \*, 6:30 pm - There  
Tue, Sep 30 - Burleson \*, 6:30 pm - There  
Fri, Oct 3 - Mansfield \*, 6:30 pm - Here  
Tue, Oct 7 - Cedar Hill \*, 6:30 pm - Here  
Fri, Oct 10 - Kaufman, 6:00 pm - Here  
Tue, Oct 14 - DeSoto \*, 6:30 pm - There  
Fri, Oct 17 - Summit \*, 6:30 pm - There  
Tue, Oct 21 - Weatherford \*, 6:30 pm - Here  
Fri, Oct 24 - Burleson \*, 6:30 pm - Here  
Tue, Oct 28 - Mansfield \*, 6:30 pm - There

## 2003 Varsity Football Schedule

Saturday, August 23 - Arl Lamar (scrimmage), 7:00 pm - Here  
Friday, August 29 - Abilene Cooper, 7:30 pm - Here  
Friday, September 5 - McKinney, 7:30 pm - Here  
Friday, September 12 - Coppell, 7:30 pm - There  
Friday, September 19 - Plano, 7:30 pm - There  
Friday, September 26 - Weatherford\*, 7:30 pm - There  
Friday, October 3 - Mansfield\* (Homecoming), 7:30 pm - Here  
Friday, October 10, OPEN - no game  
Friday, October 17 - Mansfield Summit\*, 7:30 pm - There  
Friday, October 24 - Burleson\* (Parents Night), 7:30 pm - Here  
Friday, October 31 - Cedar Hill\*, 7:30 pm - There  
Friday, November 7 - DeSoto\*, 7:30 pm - TX Stadium  
\* Denotes District Games

# Fun In Duncanville

## **TEXAS DANCE AND CHEER**

Learn chants, jumps, dance routines & more.

Class meets Thursday's  
Ages 4 to 7: 1<sup>st</sup> session  
Ages 8 & up: 2<sup>nd</sup> session

### **Register at class**

**Location - Recreation Center West Gym**  
Registration Fee: \$8 on first meeting  
Class Fee: \$7 each class meeting  
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

## **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

## **AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE CLASS - BEGINNER CLASS II**

Because our Beginner I Class is doing so well, we will have the advanced or second Section of this class along with The **Beginner I class**, coming September **16th 2003**.

Each session - 8 weeks

Class will meet every Tuesday

**Beginner I Class:** 6p - 7:30p

**Beginner II Class:** 7:30p - 9p

Class Fee: **\$45**/session for Adults

Class Fee: **\$40**/session for ages 13 to 17

Class Fee: **\$35**/session for ages 9 to 12

Class Book - American Sign Language (Barnes & Noble)

**Registration for this September Class is available. Class begins September 16th, 2003 with a Minimum 7 students**  
**Instructor: Terrance Hood. For more information call 214/868-2997**

## **KARATE**

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

**Duncanville Community Center Aerobics Room/East gym**

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

Adults: T/TH 7:15-8:30 PM

Open: Sat 9-10:30 AM

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

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

## **FALL POINTE CLASS**

Intermediate Pointe Class  
**Duncanville Community Center Aerobics Room**

Class Meets: Monday's 7:45p-9pm  
Fee: \$47/month  
Instructor: Vicki Shamberger (469) 235-6866

## **SELF-DEFENSE/ANTI-KIDNAPPING**

For ages 4 to 7: 1st session, ages 8 and up 2<sup>nd</sup> session

**Class meets every Tuesday from 5:45p to 8:45p**

**Location-Recreation Center West 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

## **MORNING YOGA**

**Learn basic yoga postures designed to celebrate the spine.**

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

**Recreation Center - Aerobics Room**

Class Fee: \$21 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

## **JAZZERCISE**

Combines cardio, strength and stretching exercises for one of the most effective total body workouts.

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

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

**Sat.-Jazzercise 9a-10a**

**NEW CLASS: Saturday Body**

**Sculpting, 10:10a-11:10a**

**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](http://www.jazzforhealth.com)

## **ROBIX FITNESS: AEROBICS & YOGA** **Duncanville Community Center Aerobics Room**

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

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

**Wed Only-Yoga Fit 7:45p-8:45p**

**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-8:00p**

(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:** \$7.00 walk-in; \$30/8 classes; \$28/8 classes; \$70/Beginner's Special -3month/unlimited classes; \$85/Season Pass/Sept-Dec 2003.

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

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

\*All other equipment available 1<sup>st</sup> come/1<sup>st</sup> served basis.

Classes are geared for most fitness levels....

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

Email: [fitness\\_in\\_duncanville@yahoo.com](mailto:fitness_in_duncanville@yahoo.com)

## **ADULT DANCE CLASSES**

**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**

**There's still time to enroll in the Fall 2003 Session**

Class will meet each Monday.

Singles are welcome.

There is still time to register for the Class. 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**

# September 2003

## **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

## **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-1pm Recreation Center-Meeting Room**

Each class session is for 6 hours  
**Class fee for insurance discount: \$40/class**

## **Court Ordered class fee:\$60/class**

Instructor: Kathryn Thompson  
Register at Recreation Center - Front Desk. For additional information call 972/572-8262

## **CONVERSATIONAL SPANISH CLASS**

This class meets weekly.  
When: Wednesday at 10am - 11:30am  
Where: Duncanville Recreation Center  
Fee: \$45/ monthly  
Register at the Center Front Desk  
Minimum 5 students needed  
Instructor: Norma Montoya  
For additional info call the center 972/780-5070

## **SHINING STARS AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM**

Parents are you looking for quality After school program? If your answer is yes then The Shining Stars After School Program is just for you! We offer homework assistance, tutoring, creative activities, and much more! The cost is \$60.00 per month/per child.

The program is designed for children 1<sup>st</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grade this Fall 2003. For more info please call (972) 780-5071.

Register now spaces are limited!

Get more information at the official website for the City of Duncanville  
[www.duncanville.com](http://www.duncanville.com)

## **DEFENSIVE DRIVING**

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

Class is sponsored & certified by the National Safety Council.

September 15 & 16 , 2003 (Must attend both days)

6:00pm - 9:00pm

Registration Deadline: Thursday, September 11 @ 9:00 PM

(Must have 6 registered by deadline to have class)

Duncanville Community Center  
201 James Collins

Cost: \$25

Instructor: Doug Rorie

## **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.

September 12

6:00pm-12am

Cost: \$10.00

**Hopkins Senior Center**

Instructor: Kim Spurlock

## **RUBBER STAMPING AND SCRAP BOOKING CLASS**

Learn rubber-stamping basics and scrap book techniques  
Express your creativity without having to be an artist.

For ages 13 to Adult

Class meets: Every other Monday from 7p to 8:15p

**Register at Recreation Center - Front Desk**

Class Fee: \$10/ per class

Instructor: Jennifer Cotton

Class meets on September 8th and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2003

For information on class date call 972/780-5070

## **BEGINNING KISWAHILI - COMING IN SEPTEMBER**

The Swahili language is basically of Bantu (African) origin. It has borrowed words from other languages such as Arabic, probably because of Swahili people using the Quran which was written for Muslims in Arabic for spiritual guidance. George OMOth is the instructor for this Beautiful African Language.

Sign-ups - Please sign-up at the Center Front Desk. We need minimum of 7 students to begin class  
ADULT FEES: \$35.00 / CHILDREN: \$45.00 (Ages 9-12)

Please call 214/755-2453 for additional info.

## **LEARN TO COOK**

### **For Teens, Young Adults**

Learn to prepare your basic meals like great mother use to make. Learn about seasoning and when to use them. Sign up at the Center Front Desk

Instructor: Chef Irvin

For additional information call 972/780-5070.

## **CREATIVE STORYTELLING LAB**

Would you like to become one of the best storytellers around? The Creative Storytelling Lab is still here waiting for you!

The cost is \$25.00 per person/per session. (The instructor will provide Supplies.) All ages are welcome. For more information call (972) 780-5071.

## **DWALAN'S READING RAINBOW**

Do you have a desire to enhance your reading abilities? Dwalan's Reading Rainbow will be coming soon to the Duncanville Recreation Center.

This class is designed to help improve reading, reading comprehension, and test taking strategies.

## **DID YOU KNOW!**

The Recreation Center has a dress code that is now being enforced. Copies are available at the center front desk.

Everyone using the fitness room, walking track, game room, And gyms at our facility must have a membership to enter. No exceptions! All Students, Patrons, Visitors who are non-members wishing to use the Library are requested to use the Library Entrance only!

It is a City Ordinance Violation to park, stand, or stop in a fire Lane where posted which could be punishable by a fine not to Exceed \$500. - Due to the large

number of complaints about The picking up and discharging of passengers in fire lanes at the Duncanville Community Center, we request your compliance

To pick up or drop off your children from designated parking Spaces NOT from the fire lane.

The City of Duncanville Water Utility Bill is the only Utility bill

Accepted by the recreation center when renewing or signing up For membership. Information sheets for membership requirement Are located at the front desk for your convenience.

# Fact Sheet: Finding Hazards in the Home

## From the Federal Emergency Management Agency

### IDENTIFYING HAZARDS

#### Check for electrical hazards.

- Replace frayed or cracked extension and appliance cords, loose prongs and plugs.
- Make sure there is only one plug per outlet. Avoid using cube-taps or overloading outlets. If you must use an extension cord, use a cord that's rated for the electrical load and no longer really needed.
- Remove electrical cords that run under rugs or over nails, heaters, or pipes.
- Cover exposed outlets and wiring.
- Repair or replace appliances that overheat, short out, smoke or spark.

#### Check for chemical hazards.

- Store flammable liquids such as gasoline, acetone, benzene, and lacquer thinner in approved safety cans, away from the home. Place containers in a well-ventilated area and close the lids tightly. Secure the containers to prevent spills.
- If flammable materials must be stored in the home, use a storage can with an Underwriter's Laboratories (UL) or Factory Mutual (FM) approved label. Move materials away from heat sources, open flames, gas appliances, and children.
- Keep combustible liquids such as paint thinner, kerosene, charcoal lighter fluid, and turpentine away from heat sources.
- Store oily waste and polishing rags in covered metal cans.
- Instruct family members not to use gasoline, benzene, or other flammable fluids for starting fires or cleaning indoors.

#### Check for fire hazards.

- Clear out old rags, papers, mattresses, broken furniture and other combustible materials.
- Move clothes, curtains, rags, and paper goods away from electrical equipment, gas appliances or flammable materials.
- Remove dried grass cuttings, tree trimmings and weeds from the property.
- Clean and repair chimneys, flue pipes, vent connectors, and gas vents.
- Keep heaters and candles away from curtains and furniture.
- Place portable heaters on a level surface, away from high traffic areas. (Purchase portable heaters that are equipped with automatic shut-off switches and avoid the use of extension cords.)

### SAFETY EQUIPMENT

#### Check fire safety equipment.

- Install at least one smoke detector on each level of the home, especially near the bedrooms. Test every month and change batteries at least once a year.
- Keep at least one fire extinguisher (A-B-C type). Maintain and recharge according to manufacturer's instructions. Show all family members where it's kept and how to use it.

### UTILITIES

#### Check your utilities.

- Locate the main electric fuse or circuit breaker box, water service shut-off, and natural gas main shut-off.
- Contact local utility companies for instructions on how to turn the utilities off. Teach family members when and how to turn off utilities off.
- Clear area around shut-off switches for easy access.

#### Gas and water

- Attach shut-off wrench or specialty tool to a pipe or other location close by the gas and water shut-off valves.
- Paint shut-off valves with white or fluorescent paint to increase visibility.

#### Home Safety

Plan how to escape. Identify at least two exits from each room. Clear doors, hallways and stairs of obstructions. Conduct emergency drills. Practice day and night time escapes, and pick a safe meeting place outside the home.



# Does your backyard gas grill have the required safety valve?

**NFPA reminds consumers propane cylinder upgrade went into effect April 1 2002.**

*Quincy, MA, March 15, 2002* — A provision of an existing safety code developed by NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) which took effect on April 1, 2002 requires overfilling prevention devices (OPDs) on propane cylinders weighing between 4 and 40 lbs., commonly used for appliances like outdoor gas grills.

An OPD is a safety valve that shuts off the flow of gas to a cylinder after 80 percent capacity has been reached. This limits the potential for release of gas when the cylinder is heated, averting a fire hazard or personal injury. Since 1998, all new propane cylinders from 4- to 40-pound propane capacity, have been equipped with OPDs.

Cylinders manufactured after September 30, 1998, are equipped with OPDs and require no change.

Older cylinder models must now be retrofitted with the device before refilling can occur, under the requirement, or the cylinder should be discarded properly and replaced with an OPD-equipped cylinder. Many filling outlets have the capacity to retrofit or recycle obsolete cylinders. In many parts of the U.S., exchange cylinder racks can be used to swap an empty cylinder without an OPD for a full cylinder equipped with an OPD, for a nominal fee, eliminating the need to dispose of the cylinder or to have it retrofitted.

How can one tell if a cylinder currently lacks an OPD? If the cylinder valve has either a round or star-shaped hand wheel, it needs an OPD. OPDs have hand-wheels that are triangular in shape, but a small number of early production OPD-equipped cylinders did not. These are stamped "OPD" on the brass valve body.

Costs to upgrade or replace a cylinder vary. For information on discarding an old cylinder, please contact your propane refiller, hazardous waste collection site, or local fire department.

## Platelet & Blood Drive Scheduled for September

The City of Duncanville has two employees whose families have a need for blood and platelet donations . The Carter Blood Center will be in Duncanville to take donations in September. The Platelet Drive will be on Friday September 12<sup>th</sup> at the Pool Parking Lot. It takes 2 hours to donate platelets and does not prohibit you from donating blood 3 days later. This will count as a double for our employees. Anyone that lives in the community or outside can donate and blood will go to the families.

The Platelet Drive      Friday September 12, 2003.  
    Rec. Center ( Pool Parking Lot)  
    9:00 A.M. to 3:00P.M.

Blood Drive                      City Hall September 17, 2003.

Parking Lot of City Hall  
 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon  
 Service Center Parking Lot  
 2:00 to 4:30 P.M.

## September 2003

**August 28 - September 9 • Early Voting** - Constitutional Amendments and Local Option Election.

**1 • Labor Day Holiday. City offices closed.** No garbage or recycling pick up.

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

**3 • Teen Court.** 5 p.m. at City Hall.

**8 • Duncanville ISD School Board Meeting.** 7 p.m. at DISD Administration Building. • **City Planning & Zoning Commission.** 7 p.m. at City Hall. 203 E. Wheatland.

**13 • Election Day.** Polls open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

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

**18-20 & 25-27 • Duncanville Community Theatre presents "Smoke & Mirrors"** written by Will Osborne & Anthony Herrera. 8 p.m. 106 S. Main Street. For reservations call, 972-780-5707.

**22 • Duncanville ISD School Board Meeting.** 7 p.m. at DISD Administration Building. • **City Planning & Zoning Commission.** 7 p.m. at City Hall. 203 E. Wheatland.

**24 • Teen Court.** 5 p.m. at City Hall.

## Champion Goes Electronic

continued from page 1

school district boundaries," said City of Duncanville Community Information Administrator Keith Bilbrey.

"*The Champion* cost the city about \$55,000 annually for printing and mailing. We looked at several different options and the only one that seemed viable was to change the publication to 'electronic' and offer it via an e-mail subscription service with limited print copies available at city hall, the library and the recreation center."

The publication will still be available via the website as well.

"We will be offering the publication in a 'pdf' format that requires the Acrobat Reader from Adobe. The reader is a free download from Adobe ([www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com)) and readers can either register to receive the publication via e-mail, or they will be able to download and view it from the city's website ([www.duncanville.com](http://www.duncanville.com))," said Bilbrey

Bilbrey also noted that the new electronic version will allow new features as well.

"One of the ways we kept printing costs down was to use only black and white photos. With the electronic publishing, we will be able to use color photos. In addition, we will not be limited in the number of pages. If we need eight pages, or twenty, we will be able to get all the information out to our citizens."

If you are interested in receiving *The Champion* in electronic format, please e-mail Keith Bilbrey at [kbilbrey@ci.duncanville.tx.us](mailto:kbilbrey@ci.duncanville.tx.us).

## Visit from Duncanville's Sister City Planned for October

In October thirty delegates from our sister city, Monasterolo, Italy will visit Duncanville.

They will arrive on Monday, September 29 and depart the following Monday, October 6<sup>th</sup>. The delegates will be staying in local homes.

Duncanville Mayor Glenn Repp and Mayor Antonio Prochietto, of Monasterolo, formally initiated this cultural exchange during a visit to Monasterolo on July 10, 1998.

Since that time, delegates from each city have exchanged annual visits.

"The visits have become an outstanding opportunity to understand the differences and the similarities in our cultures, while building goodwill and better understanding between our people," said Duncanville Mayor Glenn Repp.

While in Duncanville, the delegates will tour local businesses and attend a DHS Panther football game.

A formal ceremony will be held at 11:00 AM on Friday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> in City Hall to further solidify the relationship.

The visit will conclude with a western-style Bar-B-Q under the tent in Armstrong Park on Sunday evening October 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM.

"The public is invited and encouraged to participate in all of these events," said Mayor Repp. The cost for the Bar-B-Q is \$6 per person.

## D'Ville Cowboys Football & Cheerleading Registration Roundup

### Tackle & Flag Football Divisions

Flag (5-6 yrs.)

C-Team (7-8 yrs.)

B-Team (9-10 yrs.)

A-Team (11-12 yrs.)

\*Beginning Tackle

\*Intermediate Tackle

\*Inter-Advanced Tackle

Practices are already in session at our practice field in Duncanville, next to Acton Elementary School.

For more information leave a message at 972-780-0618 or email us at [dvillecowboys@yahoo.com](mailto:dvillecowboys@yahoo.com).

### PlanetKidz Saturday Nights

Doors open at 7 p.m.

Close at 11 p.m. sharp

Community Youth Activities and Entertainment

\$9 admission per child  
DJ, Music, Dance, Games,  
and Prizes

3rd thru 8th Grade Kids  
in association with the  
Duncanville Recreation  
Department.

<http://www.planetkidz.org/>  
or contact us : 972-772-6000.

PlanetKidz, Inc  
City of Duncanville, Texas  
Parks & Recreation Department  
201 James Collins Blvd.  
P.O. Box 380280  
Duncanville, TX 75138-0280  
972-780-5070