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City of Azle Quarterly Newsletter

October 2018



Community News

City Council Adopts 2018-2019 Budget

Azle City Council adopted the City's Fiscal Year 2018-2019 budget at the September 18, 2018 council meeting. The City of Azle's Fiscal Year begins October 1 and ends September 30. The goal in preparing this budget was to maintain levels of service and make improvements where possible. Overall, operating revenues are projected to rise moderately across all funds. 2017 appraised property values increased \$86,855,014 (10.84%) from 2016 values, of which \$32,578,488 was new construction. As a result, Council approved a combined tax rate of \$0.667287 per \$100 for FY2018-2019. The proposed rate is \$0.0042 less than the FY 2017-18 adopted tax rate; however, it will raise \$447,254 more in property tax revenue due to increased property values and new construction. The City continues to be on a solid financial foundation as we prepare for the coming year.

City Council and Staff work together to plan and prepare for the current and future needs of this growing city by managing growth and development, encouraging economic development, identifying and addressing infrastructure needs, and maintaining a financially sound and stable government.

With that in mind, some accomplishments over the past year include:

- ✓ City broke ground on the Municipal Complex which includes separate buildings for City Hall and Police Department. Construction cost is about \$12.6 million with completion by summer of 2019
- ✓ Executed agreements with Tarrant County and Tarrant County Hospital District for their participation in Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone No. 1
- ✓ Four (4) streets were reclaimed - Wilshire Ave, Corbin Ln, Alfred Dr and Martha Ln, and asphalt overlay was performed on Skylark Dr and Pine Ridge Dr
- ✓ Expanded the School Resource Officer Program by adding two more School Resource Officers
- ✓ Issued 125 new home permits in the past 12 months
- ✓ Completed upgrade to the City website
- ✓ Added another "guaranteed" day to transportation service for elderly & disabled

FY 2018-2019 Budget includes:

- ✓ Funding for three new positions for Firefighter/EMT
- ✓ Capital projects include completion of the Municipal Complex, upgrade of the Ash Street sewer line, construction of the FM 730S water line extension, and upgrade of the Main Street waterline
- ✓ Through the Street Maintenance Fund, improvements will be made to Lamplighter Ct, Sportsman Park, Lakewood Dr and Kerry Ln
- ✓ Major maintenance projects include the continued slip lining of sewer lines on Gladstone and several sections of Glenhaven Dr
- ✓ Funding for a police vehicle; a one-ton truck for the Street Department; a compact tractor and a trailer-mounted pressure washer for the Parks Department; a 1-ton crew cab pickup truck for Utility Maintenance and 16 self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) for the Fire Department
- ✓ 3% cost of living increase for employees

Azle has a lot to offer and every effort is being made to promote this community. Staff has worked hard to create a budget that will provide the services our citizens have come to expect, and they will continue to seek improvements where they can be found. For a complete look at the FY2018-2019 budget, visit the city's website.

WHO TO CALL

City Hall/Utilities 817-444-2541
 Police/Fire 911
 (Non-emergency) 817-444-3221
 Animal Control 817-444-8215
 Permits 817-444-4128
 Public Library 817-444-7216
 Senior Center 817-444-0070

Mayor:

Alan Brundrett 817-800-5199
 azlemayor@gmail.com

Mayor Pro-Tem:

Bill Jones 817-444-8544
 Bfjones100@gmail.com

Councilmembers:

Christopher Simpson 817-454-7309
 csimpsoncitycouncil@gmail.com

Rouel Rothenberger 817-237-6819
 roueljr@yahoo.com

David McClure 972-880-7495
 david.mcclure@charter.net

Corey Wynns
 coreywynns@yahoo.com

Brian Conner
 bconner@cityofazle.org

CITY HOLIDAYS

Azle Municipal Offices will close:

THANKSGIVING
November 22-23

CHRISTMAS **NEW YEAR'S**
December 24-25 **January 1**

Police and Fire services will be available by calling 817-444-3221, or 911 in case of emergency. For water/sewer emergencies, please call 817-444-3221.

Community Waste Disposal will **NOT** run their regular trash route on these holidays.

Public Meetings

City Council meets the first and third Tuesday of each month in the City Council Chambers at City Hall. Agendas are posted the Friday before a meeting on the website and on the bulletin board at City Hall. Agendas for upcoming meetings and minutes of previous meetings are available on the city website.

Other Monthly Meetings

Planning & Zoning meets the first and third Thursday of the month.

Crime Control & Prevention District meets the second Thursday of each month.

Municipal Development

District meets the second Tuesday of each month.

Parks & Recreation meets the third Monday of each month.

**Meetings listed above are held in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 613 SE Parkway.*

Library Board meets the second Tuesday of each month at 1pm in the Azle Memorial Library.

City Awarded Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting has been awarded to the City of Azle by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR) for the year ended September 30, 2017. This is the fifteenth consecutive year the City has received this prestigious award. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. The CAFR has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the Certificate of Achievement program including demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the CAFR.

Transit for Azle's Senior Citizens and Disabled expanded to two "guaranteed" ride days

The City of Azle contracts with Fort Worth Transportation Authority (Trinity Metro) to provide transit service throughout Tarrant County to Azle residents who are age 65 or older and/or disabled under a program called Tarrant County Transportation Services (TCTS). TCTS provides door-to-door transportation service within Tarrant County for any purpose including medical, visiting a friend, shopping, going to a movie, etc. Beginning October 1, Azle will offer two "guaranteed" ride days - Monday and Wednesday. This additional day of service is provided by a grant Trinity Metro recently received.



Azle residents can schedule rides to take place Monday through Friday, **but 'guaranteed' rides are only available on Mondays and Wednesdays.** On the other days, rides for Azle residents are subject to availability. Riders are always encouraged to schedule important trips such as medical appointments on "guaranteed" days. Rides are provided by Catholic Charities.

To register and ride:

- Call Catholic Charities 817-336-8714, Monday - Friday, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. Please call two (2) to seven (7) working days in advance of your desired trip date. **You must request TCTS service.**
- One-way fare is \$2.50 per person
- Rides are scheduled for the hours of 6 AM - 6 PM. No holiday/weekend service

VISIT US ONLINE AT
WWW.CITYOFAZLE.ORG

Scan for more information on what's happening in the City of Azle.



City Job Opportunities

Do you want to serve your community and have a rewarding career in our growing and thriving city? Maybe you or someone you know would be a perfect fit for our current open positions. Use the quick link on front of the City's website to see available employment opportunities. **The city currently has an opening for a full time Dispatcher and Police Officer, and part time Kennel Tech.** The website is updated as positions become available - so visit often!

It is now easier than ever to apply for a position at the City of Azle with our on-line application process.



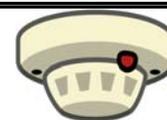
National Take Back Meds Day is a partnership with the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) and area cities to allow residents to bring expired, unused and unwanted over-the-counter and prescription drugs, veterinary medicines, samples, vitamins and herbal supplements for safe disposal -- no questions asked. *No illegal drugs, oxygen tanks, inhalers or nebulizers, needles and other sharps, thermometers or IV bags are accepted.* You are asked to keep medicines in original containers and mark through personal information before dropping off medicines.

Azle Police Dept, 613 SE Parkway, will host a collection site.

Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour on November 4.



Change Your Smoke Detector Batteries



The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) recommends you schedule battery replacement for your smoke detectors the same day you change your clocks from daylight saving time to standard time in the fall.

November 6 General and Special Elections

The City of Azle will not hold an election this November, but the State of Texas and Tarrant / Parker County have general and special elections.

Early Voting is October 22 - November 2
Election day is November 6.



Check the city website for more election information.

City Monitoring for Mosquito-borne Illnesses



The City of Azle is an active member of a Mosquito Surveillance and Response Program with Tarrant County to provide a more comprehensive mosquito surveillance program. Azle began trapping mosquitoes in May and will continue trapping until mosquito activity decreases. If you have concerns or would like the City to trap and test mosquitoes on your property, please call 817-444-7127.

A product for mosquito control called Altosid is a briquet containing methoprene, an insect growth regulator that stops mosquitoes from becoming breeding, biting adults. The briquet is placed in standing water, abandoned pools, and creeks or ponds and can be purchased at most home improvement stores.

It is very important that all of us take the necessary precautions to protect ourselves and our families from mosquito bites. To find the latest facts and additional information about West Nile Virus, Zika, and other mosquito-borne illnesses and prevention, visit <http://access.tarrantcounty.com/en/public-health.html> or The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website at www.cdc.gov/westnile/index.html or call 1-800-232-4636.

**CITIZENS
POLICE
ACADEMY**
Enrolling
Now



Azle PD accepting applications for FREE Citizens Police Academy

Azle Police Department will host its next FREE Citizen's Police Academy beginning November 12. Classes are held Monday evenings from 6 - 9 pm for a total of thirteen (13) weeks. Some of the topics covered include overview of the entire police organization and structure, criminal investigations, community policing, crime scene search, less lethal weapon participation, building searches, vehicle stops and crime prevention.

The Academy is open to individuals age 21 and older who reside or work in the city. Pre-registration is required and a basic background check will be conducted. Completed applications should be returned to Sgt Steve Stutsman at the Azle Police Department. For more information, contact Sgt Stutsman at 817-444-7098 or send an email to sstutsman@cityofazle.org.

Azle Memorial Library News and Events

333 W. Main St. / 817-444-7216

Discover more about the Library, plus a calendar of events at: www.azlelibrary.org

LIKE us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/azlelibrary

Be Well, Live Well: Healthy Aging Programs

Join us for a free four-part series on healthy aging presented by the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service. Learn how to promote a healthy and active lifestyle at any age! For more information, visit our website or call 817.444.7216. Each unique session meets at 2 PM in the Library Community Room. Join us for all: October 19 & 26, November 9 & 16.

Book Clubs

Adults are invited to join us for our two monthly book clubs! Visit the website or pick up a newsletter in the library for upcoming titles.

Non-Fiction Addiction: Meets the first Thursday of each month at 6 PM.

Main Street Book Club: (Fiction) Meets the third Tuesday of each month at 6 PM.

What's Cookin'?

Love to cook? Want to explore new techniques and recipes? Join us for our bi-monthly cooking class at the Library! Each class includes free recipes and samples. Second Monday of every other month at 4:30 PM in the Library Community Room.

11/12/18: Easy Desserts

12/10/18: SPECIAL EVENT: Annual Cookie Exchange (bring 2 dozen homemade cookies or bars to swap).

Monthly Programs Just for Kids!

ARTastic: Children ages 5-12 are invited to discover their inner creativity through different types of art, monthly on the second Tuesday 4:30 PM in the Library Community Room. All supplies are provided FREE.

LEGO Club: Everyone is invited to come build with LEGOS! Meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 4:00 PM.

READ to a Dog: Children of all ages can read to a certified reading therapy dog on the 2nd Saturday of each month from 2-3:30 PM.

Holiday Hours:

The Library will be closed on the following dates for the upcoming holidays:

- November 22 & 23
- December 24 & 25
- January 1

Azle Library Trust Gala

The Azle Library Trust will hold a **Gala fundraiser** to benefit the Library on Saturday, November 3. The evening will include dinner, live music, live & silent auctions and more. Tickets are \$100 and can be purchased at the Azle Library Information Desk.

The Trust is also selling **raffle tickets** for your choice of prize: \$500 Visa gift card; \$500 Amazon gift card; or a new iPad. Tickets are \$10 or 3/\$25 and can be purchased at the Azle Library Information Desk now through November 2. Drawing held on November 3. Winners are not required to attend the Gala.

All proceeds from the Gala and raffle will benefit the Library and help with the purchase of new books, eBooks, digital resources, programming and more.

Save the Date!

Join the Library on **Tuesday, December 11**, at 6PM for a free holiday program! Special guests from the north pole will stop by to visit, plus there will be holiday crafts, music and yummy treats to enjoy!

All ages welcome!

