

Towncenter Kennedale Herald

A Joint Publication of the City of Kennedale & NEDC



MAYOR JOHNSON'S LETTER

The New Year is fast upon us. And with 2015 just around the corner it seems this would be a good time to revisit 2009's *Imagine Kennedale 2015*

Strategic Plan and review the

progress that has been made. In 2009 the current members came together to identify issues within the city that needed to be corrected. In the document titled *Imagine Kennedale 2015* they drafted a list of tasks for the city to accomplish within seven years. Below are the tasks and review of what progress, if any, has been made on each one. Inadequate attention to the use of vegetation for beautification and concealment, particularly on major streets. The city has made great strides here with the planting of trees and shrubbery in the medians and roundabouts on Sublette and Little School roads. The city could challenge itself to do a better job of maintaining these areas; however, with pending acceptance of the work by the contractor we will strive to do so.

2. Noise associated with the racetrack. One of the tracks has closed and another has agreed to close by October 2016. The city is looking to partner with the land owners to redevelop the area for residential housing which is critical to promote retail business in Kennedale

3. Inadequate code enforcement and compliance. Code compliance has improved with the removal of over 200 unsafe structures and there is still plenty of work to go.

4. Poor condition of city streets. Here the city has seen vast improvement with the rebuilding of Little School, Sublett and Bowman Springs, Mansfield, Kenny, Solphen, Gilman, and Dick Price. In addition the county under the leadership of Commissioner Andy Nguyen has been instrumental in repaving many other streets in Kennedale. Progress has been steady and will continue.

5. Uncertain security for children and adults in parks and public areas. While we have had few incidents of crime in our city parks, the lighting needs to be improved and the city is currently looking at LED lighting for these areas.

6. Need for retention of city staff and build high functioning teams with all departments working together. Retention has been a problem partially caused by the city not being competitive in salaries. Until this last year city salaries had been frozen for five years due to the economic downturn. The city continues to focus on this area

7. Unacceptable burglary of homes and businesses. While crime is still a problem the overall crime in Kennedale, like the rest of the nation, has been in decline. Community policing in my mind is a the key. Keep an eye out in your neighborhood for suspicious activity

8. The process for new businesses compliance with city requirements should be streamlined. A "one-stop" step was created in 2009. In 2015 the city will begin the process of aligning the ordinances and regulations with the new law. This will make it easier for economic development to occur in the city. It is a fair criticism that we should have started this much earlier.

BIRD IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP! (FOR BEGINNERS)

Saturday, January 17th 8:00AM - 10:00AM

Kennedale City Hall Conference Room
405 Municipal Drive

8:00 - 8:30AM Classroom instruction

8:30 - 10:00AM Bird-watching at Southwest Nature Preserve



Seating is limited to 12 participants, so **reservations are required**. For more information or to reserve a seat, call Rachel Roberts at 817-985-2135 or reach her via email at rroberts@cityofkennedale.com.

Reserve your spot today!

POPEYE'S OPENS IN KENNEDALE!

The new Popeye's opened in Kennedale in mid-December. It is a great project for Kennedale because it transforms the appearance of the entrance of the city. Improving our city's appearance is part of the City of Kennedale's overall economic development efforts and the municipality looks forward to this new venture.

The new restaurant was heavily packed on its first few days of opening. Joshua, Popeye's Floor Manager described the opening as: "Very exciting. It's been a lot of work but I am excited and I am looking forward to working hard."

One of the earliest customers was Kennedale citizen, Ruth, with her young granddaughter. "I am so glad to have Popeye's in our area now. Thank you to whoever helped bring it here," was her response when asked for a comment.



JANUARY 2015 - CITY CALENDAR

DATE	MEETING/EVENTS	LOCATION	TIME
6th	PUBLIC MEETING: SIDEWALKS PROJECT	CITY HALL	6:00pm
7th	PARKS BOARD	CITY HALL	6:00pm
9th	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL	CITY HALL	12:00pm
13th	KEEP KENNEDALE BEAUTIFUL	CITY HALL	6:00pm
15th	PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE	CITY HALL	7:00pm

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE **KENNEDALE PARKWAY SIDEWALKS PROJECT**

Date: January 6, 2015

Time: 6:00 pm

Contact Larry Hoover with the City of Kennedale at 817.985.2170 or Jesse Childers with Shield Engineering Group at 817.810.0696