

Wise County Messenger

community focus

Rhome/Newark
edition



December 2009

NEWARK NEWS



Messenger photo by Joe Duty

A surprise retirement reception was held for City Secretary Sherry Edgemon Friday, Dec. 18, at the Newark Community Center. Edgemon retires at the end of this year. She has served as city secretary for 32 years. She is one of the longest serving city secretaries in the state. The council chose to hire Tabitha Tucciarone as the new city secretary. They received more than 60 resumes for the position.

SEVEN HILLS ELEMENTARY



FOOD DRIVE

— Seven Hills Elementary student council members Brookley Baker (left) and Hannah Gilbert pack boxes of canned goods to donate to Cornerstone Church in Newark.

The campus collected more than 2,500 canned goods, lining the halls of the school.

RHOME NEWS

City to install new sewer treatment plant

By **BRANDON EVANS**

Rhome City Council voted unanimously at the Dec. 16 meeting to purchase a \$481,000 waste water treatment plant.

Public works director Preston Gilliam said the new treatment plant is needed to replace an old, lagoon system on the west side of town.

“The lagoon style plant was built in the early 1960s,” Gilliam said. “It was only intended to have a 25-year life span.”

Most municipalities in the state have since abandoned the lagoon system. Gilliam said there are only three such plants still in operation in Texas.

He said the lagoon plant frequently fails to meet state water quality standards set by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

In addition to releasing cleaner water into Elizabeth Creek, the new plant also features greater capacity. The old plant can process 80,000 gallons of wastewater per day. The new facility, which is called a bull’s eye style plant, can handle up to 100,000 gallons per day.

The new plant will be located near the lagoon plant, south of the Crown Point subdivision.

Kimley-Horn and Associates Inc. will handle the design and contracting of the project.

Mike Shelton, project manager at the Fort Worth office, said his firm is “very excited to start the design process.”

Due to the economic recession, Shelton said he expects to receive lower than usual bids.

“Contractors are very hungry right now,” he said. “We can get good bid prices.”

The new treatment plant is only one part of an upgrade to Rhome’s water and sewer infrastructure.

The city also plans to spend approximately \$240,000 to install new water and sewer lines on the west side of town.

Mayor Mark Lorange said a grant will help cover the cost of the projects.

The city will spend approximately \$350,000 to go along with \$350,000 in grant funds.

In other business, the council:

■ approved the appointment of three new reserve police officers, pending background checks.

“I appreciate y’all wanting to volunteer in Rhome,” Lorange said. “It’s a key part of what makes Rhome work.”

■ approved the public works department purchase of a sewer cleaning machine. The device will allow the city to remove obstructions, such as roots, from sewer lines without having to call a plumber every time.

If the clog is found on residential property, the city will charge \$150 to have the clog removed. Gilliam said the typical charge from a plumber is \$350 for the service.

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ON THE COVER

Robert Pratt, chief of Rhome's Volunteer Fire Department, sits under the city's Christmas tree during Santa's visit Dec. 12. The department also held a breakfast. The photo was taken by the Messenger's Joe Duty. Have a photo you'd like to submit to Community Focus? E-mail us at focus@wcmessenger.com.



NORTHWEST SCHOOL BOARD

Accelerated high school named for James M. Steele

At the Dec. 14 Northwest School Board meeting, trustees named the district's new accelerated high school after Roanoke resident and longtime Northwest supporter James M. Steele. Steele was known for his passion for Northwest schools and its students. He served on the school board for nine years and was active in the Roanoke community. His sons, daughter-in-law and grandchildren are Northwest High School graduates, and his wife, Johnnie Steele, retired from the district last year after teaching there 23 years.

James M. Steele Accelerated High School will open in August 2010 at 606 N. Walnut St. in Roanoke (the current home of Roanoke Elementary School, which is relocating to a new campus). The nontraditional high school is designed to meet the individual needs of students who wish to accelerate their graduation plan to recover credits or who want to earn high school credits at a faster pace. Students who attend James M. Steele Accelerated High School will focus solely on academic credit since extracurricular activities will not be offered.

School calendars approved

The school board adopted academic calendars for both the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 school years. By adopting two consecutive school calendars, the district hopes to aid parents, teachers and administra-

tors as they plan student and district activities.

The 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 school calendars are similar to the current 2009-2010 calendar, with regard to student holidays, exam days and observances. To view the newly adopted calendars, visit the district's Web site at www.nisdtx.org.

Middle school attendance boundaries

With the opening of John M. Tidwell Middle School in August, the school board discussed new middle school boundaries proposed by an attendance boundary committee and the administration.

The proposed boundary changes would impact students currently zoned for Medlin Middle School, Gene Pike Middle School (Northlake area) and Chisholm Trail Middle School (north Fort Worth area). The attendance boundary proposed for Tidwell Middle School includes the following subdivisions: Chadwick Farms, Seventeen Lakes, Lost Creek, Vista Green, McPherson Ranch, Saratoga, Valley Ridge, The Villages of Woodland Springs, Tehama Ridge, Reatta Ridge, Presidio and Harmon Ranch. Under the proposed boundary adjustment, students who live in the Northlake area currently zoned to Pike Middle School would attend Medlin Middle School.

The board is expected to vote on the middle school attendance boundaries at the board meeting Jan. 11.

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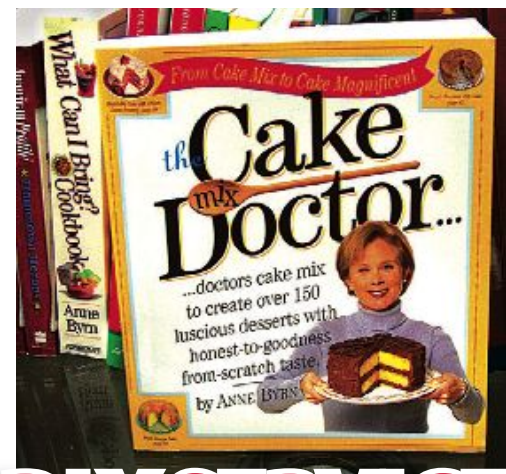
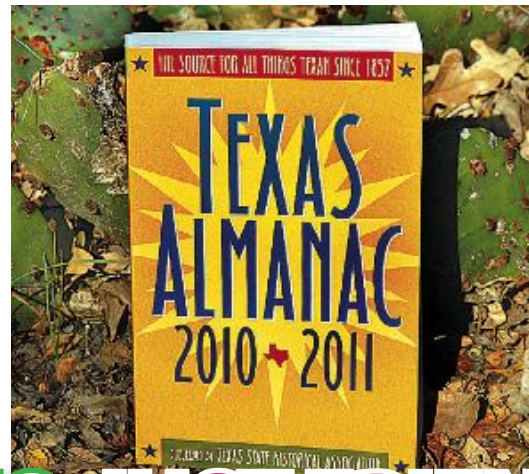
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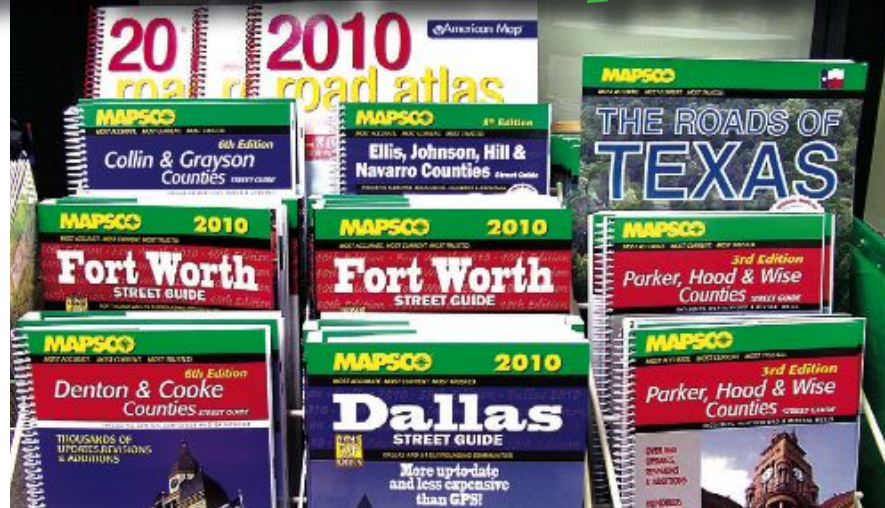


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