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“What counts is not necessarily the size of the dog in the fight, it’s the size of the fight in the dog. “

Dwight D. Eisenhower

“I am always doing that which I cannot do, in order that I may learn how to do it.”

Pablo Picasso

BOARD MEETINGS

NOVEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	H	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	H	H	30

DECEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	H	H	26	27	28
29	30	H				

-  City Council
-  Planning and Zoning
-  Economic Development Corporation
-  Community Development Corporation
-  Board of Adjustment
-  Technology Board
-  Library Board
-  Community Image Advisory Board

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

Upcoming Parks and Rec Events

Holiday in the Park & Parade of Lights & Baking Contest

Date: Saturday, December 7th

Time: Dependent Upon Activity

Location: Dependent Upon Activity

Cost: Dependent Upon activity

The Colony Christmas Spectacular

Date: Saturday, December 7th – January 4th

Time: Sunset – 10:00 p.m.

Location: Central Fire Station

(4900 Blair Oaks The Colony, TX 75056)

Cost: FREE

Upcoming Library Events

Kids Play Friday

Board games, video games, and crafts for kids in grades K-5 All children under the age of 9 must be accompanied at all times by a caregiver age 12 or over while in the library.

Date: Fridays, November 8th, 15th, & 22nd

Time: 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Location: The Colony Public Library 6800 Main Street

Cost: Free

eReader Office Hours

Thursday, November 14th at 2:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 20th at 7:00 p.m.

Location: The Colony Public Library 6800 Main Street

Cost: Free

Family Story Time – all ages welcome!

Monthly, 2nd Wednesday

Date: Wednesday, November 13th

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: The Colony Public Library 6800 Main Street

Cost: Free

Family Story Time – all ages welcome!

Monthly, 2nd Wednesday

Date: Wednesday, November 13th: Thanksgiving

Theme

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: The Colony Public Library 6800 Main Street

Cost: Free

FOTCPL PRESENTS! Pictures with Santa plus Caroling with the Fiddle Rascals

Date: Saturday, December 7th

Time: 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Location: The Colony Public Library 6800 Main Street

\$2 per picture; proceeds benefit the Library's Youth programs

Holiday Story Time with Ms. Amanda & Ms. Julie For the whole family!

Date: Wednesday, December 18th

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: The Colony Public Library 6800 Main Street

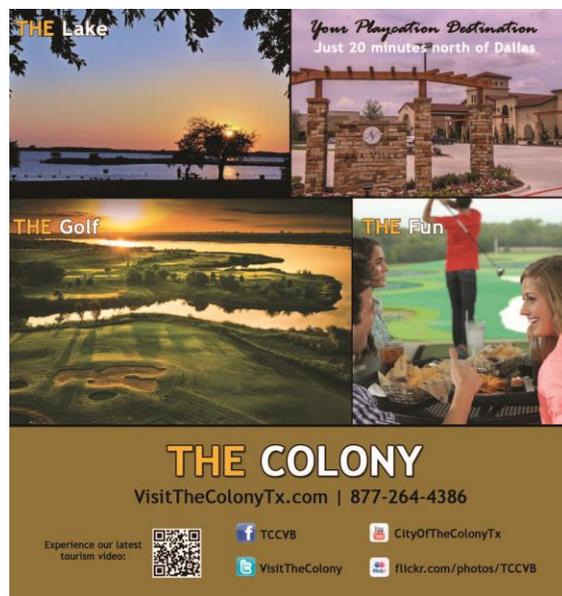
Cost: Free

CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU

Here's a brief look at what's been happening the past month in the city's Convention & Visitors Bureau:

October Recap

- During the month of October, the CVB sent out destination marketing materials to Texas Highways Magazine, Texas State Travel Guide, Southern Denton County Visitor Guide and TourTexas.com. Our monthly eBlast was sent to over 2,900 subscribers. The newsletter highlighted the winners of THE Seasons Photo Contest for THE Summer, American Heroes, Haunted Shadows Lake Trail, Fear Factory Insanitarium, Family Fright Night, The Colony Half Marathon and the Shoreline Trail.



- In addition to sending out 153 visitor guides electronically and 89 by mail, the CVB supplied visitor guides to the Big Spring CVB by request.
- The following topics were promoted through social media in October: Halloween, Survivor Joe Gobble Gallup, TopGolf, Saturday Night Out, American Heroes, local hotels, TCHS football, trick or treating safety, Tribute Shoreline Trail, The Colony Playhouse Theatre, Spec's, The Chapel at Ana Villa, T.C. Tex, Twilight at TopGolf, local parks, haunted activities roundup, Family Fright Night, Lee Greenwood, William Clark Green, Matt Kimbrow Band, Make a Difference Day, holiday choir volunteers, Maren Morris, The Colony Half Marathon, Fear Factory Insanitarium, SK8 Zone, monster make up class, First United Methodist Church 25th annual Harvest Craft Bazaar, Sixth Floor Museum, THE Seasons Photo Contest, The Colony Five Star Complex, Movies in the Park and The Colony Public Library.

- ▲ The Colony CVB attended a Certified Tourism Ambassador (CTA) event sponsored by the Dallas Fort Worth Area Travel Council (DFWATC) held at the historic Sixth Floor Museum. With the 50th anniversary of the JFK assassination soon approaching, this attraction is high on the “must see” list of many travelers coming to Texas. As CTA’s, Diane and Mariko must participate in events such as this and continually visit new attractions in the DFW region in order to maintain their CTA designation. The nationwide CTA program, gives participants the opportunity to build upon their knowledge of the local region, enhance their skills in serving customers, increase their awareness of information resources and discover the power of tourism.
- ▲ Mariko represented The Colony CVB at the Cowboy Culture exhibit on display at the MCL Grand Theater in Lewisville. *The Cowboy Culture*, an exhibit of Old West artifacts is from the renowned collection of Fort Worth’s Doug Harman, the former long-time director of the Fort Worth Convention and Visitors Bureau, former Fort Worth city manager and a noted collector of memorabilia from the Old West, the Civil War and World War II. Participation earned Mariko credit towards both her CTA designation and her Texas Destination Marketer certification.
- ▲ The Colony CVB participated in a “blitz” of nearby TxDOT Travel Information Centers. Along with representatives from Southfork Ranch, Trader’s Village, Grand Prairie, Grapevine, McKinney, Denton, Irving, Frisco, Weatherford and the Dallas Fort Worth Area Travel Council; The Colony CVB met with travel counselors in Wichita Falls, Gainesville, Denison, Texarkana and Waskom. The purpose of these yearly visits is to maintain a relationship with the travel counselors who direct visitors toward the DFW metroplex, the number one tourism destination in Texas. We make sure to inform the staff about what has changed in the last year, what’s coming up and why they should direct visitors to our cities. The Colony’s message focused on our outdoor activities and the recent Tribute Shoreline Trail grand opening, the upcoming TopGolf grand opening, American Heroes, Grandscape and what we have planned in the near future.
- ▲ The Colony CVB hosted CVB directors from Plano, Frisco, Farmers Branch, Mesquite and McKinney at the Cascade Events Center to discuss a possible promotion for the 2014 Nation Travel and Tourism Week (May 3-11, 2014). The goal of this promotion would be to show the unified nature of the North Texas region and bring more awareness to National Travel and Tourism Week and the important effect travel has on economies. The group will meet again November to discuss specifics and consider opening up the project to wider participation.
- ▲ The Colony CVB has once again teamed up with Lewisville, Flower Mound and Highland Village to produce the Southern Denton County Visitors Guide. This showpiece has been an impressive addition to the CVB’s arsenal of information and takes a more narrowly defined look at this Southern Denton County region. The Colony CVB is able to highlight local dining establishments, lodging, attractions and events at no cost. The cost to produce the piece is covered by the ad sales generated. The new 2014 guides should be available in November.
- ▲ The Colony CVB is looking forward to American Heroes. We will be manning a booth again this year and we encourage event goers to stop by and collect information, discounts and ask questions. We enjoy meeting people who have connected with us through social media and we enjoy making new connections. We look forward to seeing everyone on November 9th.

COMMUNICATIONS

Here's a brief look at what's been happening the past month in the city's Communications Department:

- ▲ Communications staff members continually work closely with other departments to edit, draft, and/or distribute a variety of press releases relating to city operations and events. Those efforts, among other engagements with local media, have resulted in coverage of:
 - cover story in the Oct. 18 edition of *neighborsgo* (and subsequent republication in the Oct. 21 edition of the *Dallas Morning News*) featuring an in-depth look at ongoing and future economic development along the SH 121 corridor;
 - Lee Greenwood's appearance as the headliner for our upcoming American Heroes festival in the form of a feature profile scheduled to run in all 14 of the Star Community Newspaper editions;
 - front-page preview story in the Oct. 13 edition of *The Colony Courier-Leader* about all that's happening at this year's American Heroes festival;
 - front-page photo in the Oct. 27 edition of *The Colony Courier-Leader* of the Nebraska Furniture Mart "topping out" ceremony in which the final beam of the structure was hoisted;
 - front-page photos in the Oct. 20 and Nov. 3 editions of *The Colony Courier-Leader* of the winning photographs from the CVB's Summer Season photo contest;
 - deliberations of the City Council, specifically related to approval of funding for new School Resource Officers from TCPD at local middle schools and the high school; approval of a new site plan for Camey Elementary; and pending discussion of the Memorial-Spring Creek Connector Project.
 - City Secretary Christie Wilson's notable recognition as a Master Municipal Clerk;
 - deliberations of the Planning & Zoning Commission, specifically approval of the Camey site plan, final plat for new common area at The Tribute, and amendments to The Cascades PD.
 - advance notice of the annual Fall Clean-Up event;
 - ongoing events and activities hosted by the Parks and Recreation Department, including the need for participants in the Holiday Choir performing at Holiday in the Park; programs available at The Colony Aquatic Park; and the need for volunteers to help at American Heroes;
 - ongoing events and activities taking place at The Colony Public Library; and,
 - ongoing updates of regional road closures affecting local traffic conditions, notably the beginning of construction of the SH121-South Colony overpass and advisories for residents in neighborhoods affected by The Colony Half marathon and the American Hero Run.

- ▲ Since Oct. 8, the city's official Twitter account, @TheColonyTexas, has seen a net increase of 27 new followers, bringing the total to 494. During that same time, social media moderators have sent out 59 unique Tweets promoting city events and other information relevant to the city's residents.

- ▲ The city's official Facebook page has accumulated a net total of 46 new "Likes," or followers since the last update, bringing the total to 1,957. Facebook metrics indicated followers were particularly interested in: aerial photographs of the city from the late 70s and early 80s as part of Internet meme "Throwback Thursday;" traffic advisories and emergency services updates; and the "topping out" of Nebraska Furniture Mart.

If you are not already following us on social media sites, we'd love for you to keep up with at what's happening in the city at: [facebook.com/thecolonytexas](https://www.facebook.com/thecolonytexas) and twitter.com/thecolonytexas .



TheColonyTexas



TheColonyTexas



CityofTheColonyTX

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

For the month of October the department closed 56 helpdesk tickets. There are over 80 computers being prepared for deployment.

Street naming issue for North and South Colony was presented to our GIS administrator. Upon review it was determined that the issue is in the Denton County Appraisal Districts (DCAD) database. Instead of being the name of the street North and South were input as direction indicators. We have contacted DCAD to resolve this issue.

The I.T. department chose a consultant for implementation of an updated email server. We have started the installation of the new server and are migrating mailboxes during after-hours operation in order to reduce its impact on user's productivity. This migration should be seamless to the user, at most a user would need to close and reopen the Outlook program. Internal mail users will see no operational differences with the upgraded server until new technologies can be implemented completely. Users who access mail via the city's website will see a change when accessing their email. They will continue to access their email via the city's website; however, instead of being directed to the login page they will be directed to a new webpage where they will be required to accept the city email use policy. Once they have accepted they will then be directed to the email login page. There are many new features for web mail users. To review some of these features you can review the following link <http://www.fas-it.fas.harvard.edu/node/2288>.

The department has reviewed several new backup software and hardware technologies and has selected a product that will allow faster backups, quicker recovery and will allow staff to begin implementation of a disaster recovery plan. We presented multiple products to the technology board and with their input chose a Unitrends appliance.

Since the VDI solution was not viable for the library public access computers we have purchased new computers using the funds that had been set aside for the VDI project.

The city received information from our bank that they were changing the way we would be able to access files from them to increase security. In the past our users have been logging into a secure website to download the file(s) daily and then import them into the financial system. Many times there were issues in accessing this file. The I.T. department has taken this opportunity to work with our bank and our users to semi automate this process. The file will now be automatically downloaded to a specific folder during the night so that when the department(s) comes in all they have to do is run the manual import. This will save significant time and frustration.

TECHNOLOGY BOARD

Board Members

Stephen Hoffman, Chairman

Lyle Snider, Vice-Chairman

Allen Harris

Juan Martinez, Secretary

Bill Swink

Joye Grube

Kevin Van Winkle

Council Liaison's: Jeff Connelly and Joe McCourry

Staff Liaison: Ted Ringener

The Technology Board met on November 4, 2013 to discuss changes to the departments 5 year capital plan, fire department radio system upgrades, city website hosting options and other upcoming projects.