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“Sunshine is delicious, rain is refreshing, wind braces us up, snow is exhilarating; there is really no such thing as bad weather, only different kinds of good weather.”

John Ruskin

“A lot of people like snow. I find it to be an unnecessary freezing of water.”

Carl Reiner

“Then come the wild weather, come sleet or come snow, we will stand by each other, however it blow.”

Simon Dach

BOARD MEETINGS

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	31				

JANUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			H	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	H	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

-  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

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 Parks and Rec Events

Polar Open Disc Golf Tournament

Date: Saturday, January 25th

Time: 7:00a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Location: Bill Allen Memorial Park, 5900 Carroll

Cost: Varies by division

Daddy & Daughter Dance

Date: Saturday, February 1st

Time: 3:00pm / 5:00pm / 7:00pm

Location: Cascades Event Center, 5909 Stone Creek Dr.

Cost: \$35 per couple; \$10 for each additional child; \$12 corsage; \$4 boutonniere; \$14 corsage / boutonniere combo

Kids Chase By The Lake

Date: Saturday, April 12th

Time: 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Location: Stewart Creek Park, 3700 Sparks Rd

Cost: TBD

Spring Eggstravaganza

Date: Thursday, April 17th

Time: 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Location: The Colony Five Star Complex, 4100 Blair Oaks

Cost: \$3 per child in advance; \$5 per child on event day

Movies in the Park – “TBD”

Date: Friday, May 9th

Time: 7:00 p.m. gates / 8:00 p.m. movie

Location: Five Star Complex, 4100 Blair Oaks

Cost: None

Mother Son Luau

Date: Saturday, May 31st

Time: 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Location: The Colony Aquatic Park, 5580 N. Colony Blvd

Cost: \$25 per couple, \$10 each additional child

Upcoming Library Events

eReader Office Hours

Date: Friday, December 20th

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: The Colony Public Library 6800 Main Street

Cost: Free

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

Spanish/English Bilingual Story Time

Hora de Cuentos Bilingüe Español / Inglés

Sponsored in part by Target

Date: Sundays, January 5th, 12th, & 26th

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Location: The Colony Public Library 6800 Main Street

Cost: Free

Early Dismissal Family Movie

Date: Friday, January 17th

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Location: The Colony Public Library 6800 Main Street

Cost: Free

12/17/13 REGULAR COUNCIL AGENDA

1.0 ROUTINE ANNOUNCEMENTS, RECOGNITIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS:

Call to Order

Invocation

Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag

Salute to the Texas Flag

Citizen Input

Announcement of upcoming civic events and activities - Parks and Recreation Update

2.0 CONSENT AGENDA

2.1 Consider approving minutes of council meetings held December 3, 2013 [Marks WS] (City Secretary)

3.0 REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

3.1 Discuss and consider a resolution authorizing and approving the Agreement of Sale and Purchase, and all necessary documents by and between The Colony Local Development Corporation, The Colony Economic Development Corporation, The Colony Community Development Corporation, and Atlantic Hotels, Ltd, concerning the conveyance of an approximately 5.46 acre tract of land to Atlantic Hotels, Ltd., consistent with said Agreement of Sale and Purchase.

3.2 Discuss and consider a budget amendment ordinance amending the Municipal Budget for FY 2013-14 for additional engineering and design for the Waste Water Treatment Plant expansion (Finance, Cranford)

4.0 WORK SESSION

4.1 Receive update regarding the City Manager's Arts Committee (Administration, Powell)

5.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION

5.1 A. Council shall convene into a closed executive session pursuant to Section 551.087 of the TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE to deliberate regarding commercial or financial information the city has received from a business prospect(s), and to deliberate the offer of a financial or other incentive to a business prospect(s).

B. Council shall convene into a closed executive session pursuant to Section 551.072 of the TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE to deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property.

C. Council shall convene into a closed executive session pursuant to Section 551.071 of the TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE to seek legal advice from the city attorney regarding Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance, and Gateway Overlay District.

Reconvene to Open Session

5.2 A. Any action as a result of executive session regarding commercial or financial information the city has received from a business prospect(s), and to deliberate the offer of a financial or other incentive to a business prospect(s).

B. Any action as a result of executive session regarding the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property.

C. Any action as a result of executive session regarding legal advice from the city attorney regarding Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance, and Gateway Overlay District.

Pursuant to the Texas Open Meetings Act, Government Code Chapter 551 one or more of the above items may be considered in executive session closed to the public, including but not limited to consultation with attorney pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 arising out of the attorney's ethical duty to advise the city concerning legal issues arising from an agenda item. Any decision held on such matter will be taken or conducted in open session following the conclusion of the executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU

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

November Recap

- During the month of November, the CVB sent out destination marketing materials to Texas Coop & Power and the Texas Events Calendar. Our monthly eblast was sent to over 2,900 subscribers highlighting the upcoming Holiday in the Park, Parade of Lights and The Colony Christmas Spectacular. The eblast contained a full schedule of the day's events as well as parade route details and past event images.

THE COLONY
THE Field THE Course THE Fun
THE GAME TIME
 877-264-4386
 Visit TheColonyTx.com

Five Star Complex 2 softball 5 baseball 2 football 8 multi-purpose Blue Sky Soccer 2 indoor 3 outdoor	Golf Courses The Tribute The Old American Stewart Peninsula 18-hole disc golf	Natatoriums TC Aquatic Park LSD Aquatic Center Lewisville Lake 23 miles of shoreline
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THE COLONY
THE Lake THE Golf THE Fun
 Future home to Grandscape and Nebraska Furniture Mart, The Colony offers year-round entertainment, attractions and events for the whole family. Spend the day on Lewisville Lake, hit the fairways at one of our three picturesque lakeside golf clubs, challenge your friends at our new TopGolf facility or blast through twists and turns at Hawaiian Falls Waterpark. Make The Colony your Playcation Destination.
VisitTheColonyTx.com
 Experience our latest tourism video.

TCCVB VisitTheColony 877-264-4386

Texas Co-op Power Magazine - Upcoming Events - An Online Community for Members of Texas Electric Cooperatives - Mozilla Firefox

Around Texas EVENTS
 Fairs, festivals, food and family fun—it's all here. Pick a region, date and event type with a few clicks, then gas up and go! Got an event to promote? Enter your listing today!

North Central Texas Events

Featured Events

- Sanger High School Arts and Crafts Show**
November 1 - December 14 in Sanger
8th ANNUAL ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW SANGER HIGH SCHOOL Benefiting Business Professionals of America SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2013 9:00 AM-4:00 PM. ADMISSION: \$1 for Adults, students are free
- Holiday in the Park & Parade of Lights**
December 7 in The Colony
This annual event, presented by The Colony Parks and Recreation Department, will make its way through town with a bang. All-day activities include: pictures with Santa at The Colony Public Library...
- The Colony Christmas Spectacular**
December 7 - January 4 in The Colony
The Colony Christmas Spectacular light show at the Central Fire Station is choreographed to music and can be seen every evening in December starting on Dec. 7 from sunset to 10 p.m. Tune your radio to...

Who Knew?
 Lutefisk calls for dried codfish, which gets reconstituted using lye. What other foods are prepared using lye?
 Haminy
 Mandarín oranges

Parade of Lights
 CITY OF THE COLONY
 PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
 and the NORTH POLE PRESENT

Saturday, December 7, 2013

Join us Saturday, December 7, 2013 as we celebrate the holidays with day-long activities leading up to the 33rd annual **Parade of Lights, Holiday in the Park, and The Colony Christmas Spectacular.**

All-day activities begin with **Pictures with Santa** (\$2 per photo) from noon to 2:00 p.m. at The Colony Public Library (6800 Main St.).

At 5:45 p.m. the **Parade of Lights**, featuring a special jolly guest of honor in a red suit, will depart Peters Colony Elementary and head west on Nash to Blair Oaks then south on Blair Oaks to The Colony Five Star Complex. Enjoy festive holiday displays of cars and floats adorned in Christmas lights.

Following the parade, gather your family and friends at Perryman Park (4930 South Colony Blvd) across from the Central Fire Station for **Holiday in the Park** featuring cheerful holiday music and performances, a holiday craft station and a holiday baking contest. We'll also be kicking off **The Colony Christmas Spectacular** light show. This amazing light show is choreographed to music (95.3FM) and can be seen every evening starting on December 7 - January 4 from sunset to 10:00 p.m.

We look forward to seeing you there!

- ▲ In addition to sending out 123 visitor guides electronically and 144 by mail, the CVB supplied 200 visitor guides to the TXDot Travel Center in Waskom upon request.
- ▲ The following topics were promoted through social media in November: Holiday in the Park, The Colony Christmas Spectacular, Parade of Lights, PARD gift certificates, Thanksgiving, Gobble Gallup, T.C. Tex, The Colony Public Library, Lakeside Community Theatre, TopGolf, various local restaurants, A Royal Touch, Royal Brush, TopGolf grand opening, Fro Yo & Mo, Tribute golf scramble, shoreline trails, Saturday Night Out, American Heroes, Veterans Day, Residence Inn, Lee Greenwood, William Clark Green, Matt Kimbrow, Maren Morris, Texas Roadhouse, Lions Club Park, Stewart Peninsula Golf Course, Spec's Deli, Whataburger, The Colony High School, The Colony Café, Daylight Savings, American Heroes 5k & fun run, and Twilight at TopGolf.
- ▲ Diane represented the CVB at the TopGolf ribbon cutting ceremony. The opening of TopGolf was a highlight for the CVB as it gives us another exciting attraction to promote and use to lure visitors to The Colony. Leading up to its opening and since its opening, we have fielded many questions about the facility and it is still one of the most popular topics discussed on our social media sites.
- ▲ Diane and Mariko attended the city council meeting where Mayor Joe McCourry read aloud from the resolution presented to The Colony CVB from State Representative Pat Fallon. The resolution highlights the CVB's success at the 2013 Texas Association of Convention and Visitors Bureau's annual conference as well as previous People's Choice awards over the last four years.
- ▲ The Colony CVB participated with a booth at the American Heroes Festival. We were excited to meet many of our current social media followers as well as sign up many new subscribers. With all the new development occurring within The Colony, we answered many questions and passed out hundreds of brochures, swag bags and other city related material.
- ▲ The North Texas CVB Alliance met with representatives from Aria to discuss their role in putting together a program for National Travel and Tourism Week. Aria is excited to get on board and help support a cause that promotes unity among North Texas tourism destinations. The group will meet again in December to select a program and discuss the steps necessary to make it successful. Aria is a full-service advertising agency in Dallas that focuses on destination marketing and has created many successful programs for destination marketing organizations.
- ▲ Diane represented The Colony CVB at the TopGolf grand opening party. The event included local sports celebrities and other notable guests such as Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings. Guests were treated to entertainment, food and of course rounds of golf. Local news media were on hand to capture some of the spirit from the night providing The Colony with positive media exposure.
- ▲ In November the CVB updated our website events page to reflect the 2014 events calendar which will be heavily promoted in the upcoming months to encourage viewers to "save the date" and plan a future visit to The Colony. The Colony CVB is looking forward to promoting local businesses and restaurants throughout the month of December to encourage holiday visitors to shop, spend and stay locally.

COMMUNICATIONS

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

- Utilizing the city's updated Communications Plan, staff members responded to the recent spate of icy weather by overcoming challenges and working throughout the long weekend to ensure The Colony residents were kept up to speed on important news and information. Preparations began on Thursday before the weather arrived, and included allocation of specific responsibilities dependent on potential weather-related outcomes. While not all eventualities can be anticipated and some news might be overlooked, communications staff worked closely with the city manager's office, emergency services leadership, the parks department, information technology staff and facilities maintenance to distribute a wide variety of information on multiple media. Television stations and local newspapers were routinely apprised of closure announcements for city facilities. While it remained operable before losing power, the city's cable feed was managed remotely. The city's website "ticker," social media accounts and "email blast" system were constantly updated with information about: trash and recycling services (including planned procedures for tree limb removal); the fluid status of Holiday in the Park festivities; park closures, such as Five Star and Kids Colony 2; library closures, as well as details about cancellation or rescheduling of specific programs; power outages throughout the city, including city hall; damage to the poles at TopGolf; and the weather-related fire on Monday morning at Comfort Suites. In summary, "Icemageddon 2013" provided the department an opportunity to put its plans to the test in a crisis. While there's always room for improvement, staff members feel they passed the test by coordinating with other departments to promptly channel so much information over multiple communication platforms in a four-day period.
- A new communication method was debuted this month featuring periodic profiles of city departments. The profiles will offer a "day in the life" perspective on what goes on behind the scenes in the city. The first installment featured Animal Services, and can be found online at thecolonytx.wordpress.com.
- Staff met with members of The Colony History Committee seeking ways to gather and preserve the city's historical information. We are initiating a "house keeping" of photos and documents from all of the city departments to be copied into one shared electronic folder.
- 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:

 - deliberations of the City Council, specifically its approval of the final phase of the Memorial-Spring Connector project and the city's new interlocal agreement with Little Elm ISD (both front page stories in *The Colony Courier-Leader*), as well as council approval of the new TIRZ in The Tribute;
 - seasonal fire safety tips from Fire Chief Scott Thompson in the Nov. 22 edition of *neighborsgo*;
 - Nebraska Furniture Mart as the anchor of new growth along the Rayburn toll road corridor in another business feature by *The Dallas Morning News*, which ran in the Metro section Nov. 16.
 - Grandscape development update and development-related news in a Channel 8 report by Steve Stoler on Dec. 3;
 - the city's growing attractiveness in the retail market in a Nov. 15 column by D Magazine blogger John Zikos titled, "The Colony is red hot;"
 - TopGolf grand opening event on Nov. 18 by multiple media outlets, including a glowing review of the facility by *Courier-Leader* sports editor Justin Thomas in the Nov. 24 edition;
 - the four-alarm fire at the Comfort Suites on Dec. 9, which was quickly extinguished by TCFD;
 - a gas leak on South Colony Boulevard resulting in nearby evacuations and closure of the road;
 - upcoming changes to residents' sewer charges as a result of annual recalculation;

- ongoing events and activities hosted by the Parks and Recreation Department, including a front-page feature story in the Dec. 1 edition of *The Courier-Leader* previewing Holiday in the Park; and,
- ongoing events and activities taking place at The Colony Public Library.

📌 Since Nov. 5, the city’s official Twitter account, @TheColonyTexas, has seen a net increase of 78 new followers, bringing the total to 572. *This is the single biggest jump over a month’s time since we began tracking the data earlier this year.* Much of the increase may be attributed to residents and media seeking up-to-the-minute information during the “Icepocalypse” Dec. 6-9. Since the previous count, social media moderators have sent out 81 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 96 new “Likes,” or followers since the last update, bringing the total to 2,053. *Not only did the page reach the “2,000 Likes” milestone, but as was the case with Twitter, this was the largest month-long increase in followers since tracking began.* Facebook metrics indicated followers were particularly interested in: emergency services’ response to a gas leak on South Colony Boulevard the afternoon of Nov. 26; the city council’s attendance at a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Camey Elementary School on Nov. 19; the police department’s investigation of a motor vehicle accident involving a pedestrian on Nov. 5; and photos from the VIP party at TopGolf on Nov. 18.

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 . You can also sign up to receive information via email at: [Citizen Action Center](#)



TheColonyTexas



TheColonyTexas



CityofTheColonyTX

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The I.T. department completed implementation of a new email server. There are still a few issues that need to be resolved. We are working with the consultant and hardware manufacturer.

After last month's the extended website outage we have been experiencing issues with the city's online application.

The I.T. department has been working with Human Resources on developing a new online application process.

The new backup solution has been installed and is operational. This system provides better coverage of new technologies and will help provide to more efficient recovery of systems and files.

Library staff and the I.T. department have started replacing the public access computers. Initially we have deployed 5 new machines as a test bed since there are a few new applications being deployed for internet filtering and PC control.

During the power outages caused by the winter storm our current battery backup systems lasted approximately 90 minutes; after that we lost perimeter security, network connectivity and server access. This type of power loss increases the likelihood of corrupting the server operating systems. We were fortunate and did not have this issue occur on any of our servers.

An internet connection has been installed at the police department for their use however it cannot be made operational until an internet firewall is in place. We will also have to get approval from the CJIS auditor before implementing this internet connection.

During the power outage on Monday the I.T. staff worked for over 90 minutes to shut down all servers and systems at city hall. This indicates the need to create an automated shutdown process that after a specified time will start shutting down non-essential systems first and proceeding in a predetermined order as the length of outage increases. Upon power restoration the battery backup systems need 45 minutes to charge to 35% or more before turning systems back on in case of power drops or outages.

TECHNOLOGY BOARD

Board Members

Stephen Hoffman, Chairman

Lyle Snider, Vice-Chairman

Juan Martinez, Secretary

Joye Grube

Allen Harris

Bill Swink

Kevin Van Winkle

Council Liaison's: Jeff Connelly and Joe McCourry

Staff Liaison: Ted Ringener

The Technology Board did not meet in December. The next scheduled meeting is January 6, 2014 where we will discuss website hosting vendors. We will also be discussing the need for traffic cameras during the upcoming construction of FM423 (Main St.) as well as city view cameras for use by first responders.