

AUGUST 2012 MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

The month of August has arrived along with the 100 degree days. I ask that all of you be careful and follow the correct procedures to avoid heat stroke when you are outdoors and along the lake shoreline. The County of Denton has issued an area wide burn ban which includes the Town of Shady Shores. There will be no more burn permits for a while. You can still use a charcoal or butane grill as long as it is covered and five feet away from any combustible material. In addition, water safety must be observed while you are out on the lake. You must wear a life jacket. The drowning tally is way up this season. Most of the tragedies could have been avoided had the folks been wearing a life vest.

Speaking of water, conservation is still the number one priority. Water once a week late in the evening and give your lawn about a one inch soaking. You must not waste water. The lake is evaporating rapidly with this high heat. Ercot continues to demand that we cut back electric usage between three PM and 7PM while maintaining the thermostat at 78.

August will bring forth a multitude of meetings. We will have our regular council meeting on the 6th as several committees will be appointed, the police inter local agreement will be discussed and there will be a public hearing regarding annexing property in Hidden Valley Airpark. Furthermore, there will be a presentation by the strategy committee regarding the infrastructure outlook for the next five years in Shady Shores. We will also have our final budget work session on the 6th. We will have a Community Events Committee meeting on the 9th. The Planning and Zoning meeting will be on the 16th which is a special meeting date. Also, there will be a public hearing regarding the budget on the 29th. As it stands right now the operating budget for the 2012-13 fiscal year is \$1,401,780.00. The new tax rate proposed by the appraisal district is .314 per 100 dollars of value. Currently, we are using a rate of .312 per 100. If the council decides to accept the new rate, the increase in property tax will be minimal. A balanced budget this year will require using \$490,215.00 from our fund balance. Since the funds are available, I am requesting that the council not ask for any type of major adjustment to the tax rate to fund the budget. The largest expenditure in the upcoming budget will be roads and drainage as the council has requested \$600,000.00 to begin an aggressive repair of these needed issues.

I am sure you are all aware that there was some discussion regarding the cities of Lake Dallas and Hickory Creek not funding the Lake Cities Fire Department for the next five years. I am happy to report that as of last Thursday both cities decided to go forward with funding the department. There were some concessions made in the budgeting process and those will be

passed on to the Town of Shady Shores as well. We will see a modest reduction in our already signed inter local agreement. It pleases me that we will continue to see the four lake cities standing behind the fire department. We all shared in the development of the fire department over the last fifty years from a small volunteer department to a unit that is one of the best in the state for on time response. My hat goes off to the mayors of Corinth, Lake Dallas and Hickory Creek for their patience and wisdom in keeping the unity intact.

As I close this month's letter, I need to advise all residents that our Zoning Ordinance 124 prohibits the erection of any sign, bulletin board or advertising device of any kind on occupied residential property. This is a very serious offense which can lead to a fine of up to \$2,000.00 per day for non-compliance.

In conclusion, I know you have seen Baker Tree Service all around town trimming the trees and side hedges in order to be in compliance with area needed for large vehicles to pass down our public thoroughfares. I must once again remind you that it is the homeowner's responsibility to trim that foliage which is in front of their property. Citations can and will be issued in the future if the trees and hedges are not kept trimmed.

Have a wonderful August and keep the date of September 1, 2012 open from the hours of 11AM to 1PM. We are going to have a HOOT AND HOLLER good time as I will be serving up burgers and hot dogs for all those who want to meet and greet each other that day. More info is on the way. Well, after all, it is the "dog" days of summer.

Pleasant thoughts from your Mayor, Jerry Williams.