

Inside this Issue:	
Who to Call	2
November 3 Elections	2
Take-back Unwanted Drugs	2
City Hall Lobby Closed	2
Transit for Senior Citizens	3
City of Azle Job Opportunities	3
Free Library Events	4

City of Azle Quarterly Newsletter

October 2020



City Council Adopts 2020-2021 Budget

Azle City Council adopted the City's Fiscal Year 2020-2021 budget at the August 24, 2020 council meeting. The City of Azle's Fiscal Year begins October 1 and ends September 30. The goal in preparing this budget was to maintain levels of service and make improvements where possible, giving particular attention to the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Overall, operating revenues are projected to rise moderately across all funds. 2020 appraised property values increased \$45,668,526 (4.69%) from 2019 values, of which \$27,878,218 was new construction. As a result, Council approved a combined tax rate of \$0.657204 per \$100 for FY2020-2021. This is the same rate as the FY 2019-20 adopted tax rate; however, it will raise \$350,145 more in property tax revenue due to increased property values and new construction. The City continues to be on a solid financial foundation as we prepare for the coming year.

City Council and Staff work together to plan and prepare for the current and future needs of this growing city by managing growth and development, encouraging economic development, identifying and addressing infrastructure needs, and maintaining a financially sound and stable government.

With that in mind, some accomplishments over the past year include:

- ✓ October 2019, completed construction on the Municipal Complex, which includes separate buildings for City Hall and Police Department. Final construction cost was just over \$12 million.
- ✓ Completed street reclamation of Gordon Dr, Rhoades St, Polly Ave, Toronto Rd, Victoria Ave, Ridgeway Ave, Valley View Ct, Crestview Pl, Blue Meadow Dr, North & South Melanie Dr, and Lee Ct.
- ✓ Five (5) positions were added – Two (2) Police Officers, Assistant Library Director, Controller, and HR Generalist.
- ✓ Completed the new 800 MHz digital radio system and dispatch center for the Police Department.
- ✓ Completed construction on the Main St Waterline Improvement Project as well as the waterline extension on FM 730.
- ✓ Azle was certified as a Texas Film Friendly Community by the Governor's Office.
- ✓ Maintained water and sewer rates, but increased the Sewer Consumption Rate by 2% (\$0.05).

FY 2020-2021 Budget includes:

- ✓ Installation of new playground shade structure at Shady Grove Park
- ✓ Capital projects include the Emergency Process Equipment Generator and On-shore Pump Intake Station Project at the Water Plant
- ✓ Through the Street Maintenance Fund, improvements will be made to Poe St, Shady Ln, Carpenter St, Cresthaven Ct, School St, and Astoria Ave.
- ✓ Major maintenance projects include the continued slip lining of sewer lines adjacent to Glenhaven Dr.
- ✓ Funding for a fire truck; three (3) police pursuit vehicles; a 5-7 cu. yd. dump truck for Utility Maintenance; as well as an excavator (lease purchase), trailer-mounted jetter, planer/milling machine and a ¾-ton truck, all to be shared by the Streets and Stormwater Departments
- ✓ Funding to construct bathrooms at Central Park

Azle has a lot to offer and every effort is being made to promote this community. Staff worked hard to create a budget that provides the services our citizens have come to expect, and will continue to seek improvements where they can be found. For a complete look at the FY2020-2021 budget, visit the city's website.

WHO TO CALL

City Hall/Utilities 817-444-2541
 Police/Fire 911
 (Non-emergency) 817-444-3221
 Animal Control 817-752-2681
 Permits 817-444-4128
 Public Library 817-752-2682
 Senior Center 817-444-0070

Mayor:

Alan Brundrett 817-800-5199
 azlemayor@gmail.com
 facebook.com/AzleMayor

Mayor Pro-Tem:

Bill Jones 817-307-5959
 bjones@cityofazle.org

Councilmembers:

Christopher Simpson 817-454-7309
 csimpson@cityofazle.org
 Rouel Rothenberger 817-237-6819
 rrothenberger@cityofazle.org
 David McClure 972-880-7495
 david.mcclure@charter.net
 Corey Wynns
 cwynns@cityofazle.org
 Brian Conner
 bconner@cityofazle.org

CITY HOLIDAYS

Azle Municipal Offices will close:

THANKSGIVING
 November 26-27

CHRISTMAS **NEW YEAR'S**
 December 24-25 January 1

Police and Fire services will be available by calling 817-444-3221, or 911 in case of emergency. For water/sewer emergencies, please call 817-444-3221. Community Waste Disposal will **NOT** run their regular trash route on these holidays.

Public Meetings

City Council meets the first and third Tuesday of each month in the City Council Chambers at City Hall. Agendas are posted the Friday before a meeting on the website and on the bulletin board at City Hall. Agendas for upcoming meetings and minutes of previous meetings are available on the city website.

Other Monthly Meetings

Planning & Zoning meets the first and third Thursday of the month.

Crime Control & Prevention District meets the second Thursday of each month.

Municipal Development District meets the second Tuesday of each month.

Parks & Recreation meets the third Monday of each month.

**Meetings listed above are held at City Hall, 505 W. Main Street*

Library Board meets the second Tuesday of each month at 1pm at the Azle Memorial Library.

November 3, 2020 General/Presidential Elections

The City of Azle **will not** hold an election this November, but the State of Texas and Tarrant/Parker Counties have general and special elections. Voters will also cast their vote for President of the United States. Election day is Tuesday, November 3. Early Voting is October 13 - October 30.

Make your voice heard - VOTE!

Tarrant County voter info

<http://www.tarrantcounty.com/en/elections.html>
817-831-8683

Parker County voter info

<https://www.parkercountytx.com/118/Elections>
817-598-6185

Texas Secretary of State

<https://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/laws/current-elections-information.shtml>
1.800.252.VOTE (8683)



SORRY
TEMPORARILY
CLOSED

Azle City Hall will be closed for business on Election Day, November 3. Lobby will be open for voters.

Due to the large turnout expected on Election Day, Azle City Hall will be closed for normal business, however, staff will be working, answering phones, in an effort to meet the needs of Azle residents and businesses. All city business may be conducted either online, via email, by mail or by phone. All other city facilities will be open. For questions or assistance, please call (817) 444-2541.

Azle Police Department is taking back unwanted prescription drugs during National Take Back Day
October 24 10 am - 2 pm



Azle Police Department and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration will provide the public the opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused and unwanted prescription drugs. **Bring your pills for disposal to the Azle Police Dept at 505 W Main St.** (Sites cannot accept liquids, needles or sharps, only pills or patches.) The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

Can't make it on October 24? A secure medication drop box is located in the Lobby at City Hall, 505 W. Main St, and is available to the public during normal business hours so our citizens can conveniently discard dangerous and abuse prone medications that otherwise may remain stored in the home.

This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Last fall, Americans turned in nearly 883,000 lbs of prescription drugs during this event. DEA, along with its law enforcement partners, has collected nearly 6,350 tons of expired, unused, and unwanted prescription medications since the inception of the National Prescription Drug Take Back Initiative in 2010.

VISIT US ONLINE AT
WWW.CITYOFAZLE.ORG

Scan for more information on what's happening in the City of Azle.



Transit for Azle's Senior Citizens and Disabled provides two "guaranteed" ride days

The City of Azle contracts with Fort Worth Transportation Authority (Trinity Metro) to provide transit service throughout Tarrant County to Azle residents who are age 65 or older and/or disabled under the Tarrant County Transportation Services (TCTS) program. TCTS provides door-to-door transportation service within Tarrant County for any purpose including medical, visiting a friend, shopping, going to a movie, etc. Azle offers two "guaranteed" ride days - Monday and Wednesday. This additional day of service is provided by a grant Trinity Metro received.

Azle residents can schedule rides to take place Monday through Friday, **but "guaranteed" rides are only available on Mondays and Wednesdays.** On the other days, rides for Azle residents are subject to availability. Riders are always encouraged to schedule important trips such as medical appointments on "guaranteed" days. Rides are provided by Catholic Charities.

To register and ride:

- Call Catholic Charities at 817-336-8714, Monday-Friday, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Please call two (2) to seven (7) working days in advance of your trip.
You must request TCTS service.
- One-way fare is \$2.50 per person
- Rides are scheduled from 6 AM - 6 PM. No holiday/weekend service



For Azle's Parker County Residents, Public Transit Services (PTS) provides door-to-door transportation service for anyone living in Parker County.



\$4 one way (\$2 for seniors over 65) anywhere within Parker County (call for information on transportation to other destinations).

Ride service is from 6 AM - 6 PM. No holiday/weekend service.

To schedule a ride call 940-328-1391 or Toll Free 1-866-521-1391, Monday - Friday, 8 AM - 5 PM. Please call two (2) to seven (7) working days in advance of your trip.

Azle voters who are disabled or are 65 or older can get a free ride to the polls on Monday or Wednesday during the early voting period via the Tarrant County Transportation Service (TCTS).

Catholic Charities Fort Worth handles the scheduling and is the transportation provider. Riders should call 817-336-8714 at least 48 hours ahead of their trip and show their voter registration card or current Texas ID to ride for free.



The Tarrant County Commissioners Court approved a \$20,000 partnership with transportation services in Tarrant County to pay for customer trips to voting locations. "We are trying to give every eligible voter in Tarrant County the ability to vote in the November 2020 election," said Tarrant County Judge Glen Whitley.

Make your voice heard - cast your vote!

Change Your Smoke Detector Batteries

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) recommends you schedule battery replacement for your smoke detectors the same day you change your clocks from daylight saving time to standard time in the fall.

Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour on November 1.



City Job Opportunities

Do you want to serve your community and have a rewarding career in our growing and thriving city? Maybe you or someone you know would be a perfect fit for our current open positions. Use the quick link on front of the City's website and take a look at our employment opportunities. The website is updated as positions become available - so visit often!

Azle Memorial Library News and Events

333 W. Main St. / 817-444-7216

Discover more about the Library, plus a calendar of events at: www.azlelibrary.org

LIKE us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/azlelibrary

Temporary Hours

- Monday / Wednesday / Friday: 11 AM-5 PM
- Tuesday / Thursday: 2 PM-7 PM
- Saturday/Sunday: CLOSED

COVID-19 Related Information

In order to keep library patrons, staff and our community safe, we ask that the public adhere to the following guidelines when visiting the Azle Memorial Library:

- Per Executive Order GA 29, issued by the Texas Governor, masks that cover both the nose and mouth are required to be worn by all library visitors aged 10 years and older.
- Anyone exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, or who may have been exposed to COVID-19, is asked to refrain from visiting the library.
- Library services are temporarily limited, and users are asked to keep their visits as short as possible.
- All returned items will be quarantined for 72 hours before returning to the shelves.
- Library computers, new card sign-up, and faxing services will end 10 minutes before closing.
- Outside return drops, digital resources, eBooks and online account access are available 24/7

FREE Virtual Programming

The Library is offering several virtual programs you can enjoy from the safety of your home!

- **Take Home Craft Kits:** Each month, through December, the library is offering free take home craft kits for kids, teens and adults. Simply pick one up when the library is open (on specific dates), and take the craft home to make. All the supplies and instructions are included in the kit. Visit our website or Facebook page for specific dates when kits are available.
- **Virtual Storytime:** Each Wednesday at 10am, Children's Librarian, Miss Lisa, posts a new virtual storytime video on Facebook and YouTube. Toddlers/preschoolers and their caregivers can watch the short videos containing stories, rhymes, songs and even a craft idea. Videos can be accessed any time once they are posted.
- **In the Interim Book Club:** Looking for fellow readers to discuss a great book with? Adults can read the book selection for the month in advance, then participate in a lively discussion via Zoom. If you would like to attend, please email the library@cityofazle.org at least 24 hours in advance.
- **And Much More!** Look for additional virtual programs, such as Lego Club, craft and cooking videos, book suggestions, and more on the library's Facebook, Instagram and YouTube accounts.

Facebook: facebook.com/azlelibrary

Instagram: instagram.com/azle_memorial_library

YouTube: youtube.com/user/AzleLibrary/videos



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quarterly and available online
at www.cityofazle.org