



NOTICE OF WORK SESSION AGENDA

LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL

James R. Williams Pump Station
Training Room, 1999 Jefferson



April 20, 2015 – 7:00 PM

DEFINITIONS:

Written Briefing: Items that generally do not require a presentation or discussion by the staff or Council. On these items, the staff is seeking consent from the Council or providing information in a written format.

Verbal Briefing: These items do not require extensive written background information or are an update on items previously discussed by the Council.

Regular Item: These items generally require discussion between the Council and staff, boards, commissions, or consultants. These items may be accompanied by a formal presentation followed by discussion and direction to the staff.

[Public comment will not be accepted during Work Session
unless Council determines otherwise.]

Regular Items:

- 1.** Receive a presentation regarding the design of the new fleet maintenance facility.
- 2.** Receive an update on the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding administered through Dallas County.
- 3.** Discuss Report of City Council Five Year Goals and Strategies established during the annual City Council Strategic Planning Session in June 2014 for the 2nd quarter of FY 2014/2015.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: The Council reserves the right to convene into executive session on any posted agenda item pursuant to Section 551.071(2) of the TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE to seek legal advice concerning such subject.

ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT: The Municipal Center is wheelchair-accessible. For sign interpretive services, call the City Secretary's office, 972-218-1311, or TDD 1-800-735-2989, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. Reasonable accommodation will be made to assist your needs.

Certificate

I hereby certify the above Notice of Meeting was posted at the Lancaster City Hall on April 17, 2015 @ 5:00 p.m. and copies thereof were provided to the Mayor, Mayor Pro-Tempore, Deputy Mayor Pro-Tempore and Council members.

Sorangel O. Arenas
City Secretary

LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL
Work Session Agenda Communication
April 20, 2015

Item 1

Receive a presentation regarding design of the Fleet Maintenance Facility.

This request supports the City Council 2014-2015 Policy Agenda.

Goal: Sound Infrastructure

Background

At the February 9, 2015 regular meeting City Council approved a resolution authorizing the design of a new fleet maintenance facility to be located at 631 E. 3rd Street. The overall scope of the project will include the construction of a new 10,000 to 12,000 SF Fleet Maintenance Building.

Quorum Architects, Inc. will present a conceptual design and site plan for Council review.

Submitted by:

Jermaine Sapp, Equipment and Facility Services Director

LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL

Work Session Agenda Communication

April 20, 2015

Item 2

Receive an update on the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding administered through Dallas County.

This request supports the City Council 2014-2015 Policy Agenda.

Goal: Sound Infrastructure

Background

CDBG funds are administered through Dallas County and may only be used on projects that eliminate blight, eliminate a community threatening condition or primarily benefit low/moderate income residents. The primary objective of the program is to develop sustainable urban communities that meet the public service and housing needs of low and moderate income households. Federal rules allow each community to tailor its program to address specific local needs.

The City of Lancaster was eligible to receive \$116,863 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for fiscal year 2014.

Historically the City of Lancaster has used this funding for residential roadway projects. For the past four years council has approved eleven roadway project(s) in low to moderate income areas for reconstruction.

The purpose of this update is to discuss the transfer of previously allocated \$52,851.20 (remainder of 2008 funding) for demolition of substandard structures to eligible street reconstruction projects in the city. There have also been a series of changes to Dallas County's administration of the CDBG program. The formula for allocation of available funding has changed as a result of the City of Desoto becoming an entitlement city. Becoming an entitlement city enables Desoto the ability to administer its own program and will reduce the County's program funding by \$200,000.

Staff will provide a brief presentation on the available funds and program changes.

Submitted by:

Rona Stringfellow, Assistant City Manager

LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL

Work Session Agenda Communication

April 20, 2015

Item 3

Discuss Report of City Council Five Year Goals and Strategies established during the annual City Council Strategic Planning Session in June 2014 for the 2nd quarter of FY 2014/2015.

This request supports the City Council 2014-2015 Policy Agenda.

Goals: **Financially Sound City Government**
 Civic Engagement
 Healthy, Safe & Vibrant Community
 Professional & Committed Workforce
 Sound Infrastructure
 Quality Development

Background

City Council conducted an annual Strategic Planning Session in June 2014. This report represents activity for the second quarter of FY 2014/2015 (October 2014 – March 2015). This is a review of implementation and progress on strategies and initiatives outlined in the 2014/2015 strategic plan and how said strategies connect to continued progress toward the realization of the Lancaster Vision.

Financially Sound Government - The City has a long-range financial plan and has prudent fiscal policies and processes in place. It has met or exceeded all fund reserve goals, has funds available to address the needs of the community, and responsibly manages its debt. The community continues to move toward a more competitive tax rate.

1. Debt Policy

- Finance presented the Fiscal Year FY 2014 annual audit and **Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR)** for FY 2014. It has been submitted at the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for consideration of the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting in March.
- Finance continues in the process of documenting all operational policies and procedures.

- Staff will present a debt policy to Council for consideration at an upcoming work session.

2. **Ensure the City's Tax Rate is Competitive** – during the FY 2014/2015 budget planning, presentation and town meetings, staff presented information regarding the correlation between property values and the tax rate in comparison to neighboring and survey cities. This information demonstrated the city tax portion of the average Lancaster resident's tax bill is less than our comparison cities. We will continue to seek strategies to improve our property values as there is a direct correlation between values and rate. Staff is also in the process of re-evaluating the criteria for comparable cities.

Quality Development - The City encourages high quality construction in its housing, commercial buildings and public facilities. The City employs sustainable building practices and encourages conservation and the use of alternative energy sources. The City has a diverse housing stock with walkable neighborhoods and other high quality neighborhood amenities. A diversity of commercial businesses includes corporate business parks and distribution facilities, which make use of the expanded airport, rail, and highway system. Retail areas have grown because of growth in industrial, commercial and residential development.

1. **Promote Development of a Hotel/Convention Center**

Staff continues to contact hoteliers and identify trade shows to work that are attended by members of the hotel industry. The Annual Developers and Hoteliers Symposium is scheduled for April 22, 2015. A brochure titled "Just the Facts" is available on the city website under Economic Development, Community Profile, Just the Facts Brochure.

2. **Development of I-20 and Houston School Road & Campus District**

Staff continues to include information about new business opportunities within the Campus District when making sales calls on prospects and responding to other inquiries suitable for that district in Lancaster.

This quarter 62,800 square feet of new or formally empty space was occupied by business operations.

3. **Downtown and Other Strategic Areas Tax-increment Financing (TIF) Strategy**

Staff will utilize previously conducted study by the University of Texas at Arlington, on the Historic Downtown District Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone viability to provide an update to City Council in the third quarter. Staff will provide a comprehensive review of the study along with possible next steps in the creation of a TIF/TIRZ District to address future re-development of the Historic Square, construction of a City Hall, infrastructure improvements and inclusion of future way finding assets as we continue to promote the City of Lancaster as a tourism destination.

Economic Development staff continues working toward the attraction of projects creating commercial, industrial and retail development in order to create a growing tax base and growth in the community's daytime population ensuring the financial sustainability of government in Lancaster and jobs for our residents.

- Staff conducted 14 sales calls on commercial/industrial brokers, developers and potential end users promoting Lancaster as a location for the logistic solutions to their customers.
- Staff conducted 2 community tours for a developer unfamiliar with the opportunities in Lancaster.
- Staff responded to 10 inquiries for information regarding Lancaster as a potential location for the inquirer's expansion or relocation needs.

Economic Development staff will develop and implement efficient and effective marketing programs designed to solicit and secure the interest of the commercial, industrial and retail development-brokerage communities to promote Lancaster as a profitable marketplace for their client's future relocation or expansion needs.

- Staff participated in 3 commercial-industrial broker and developer events promoting Lancaster as a location for their customers.
- Staff hosted the visits of 2 end user companies interested in Lancaster as a location for their expansion plans.
- Staff attended 1 trade shows calling on commercial-industrial users, brokers and developers exhibiting at the show to promote Lancaster as a location for the logistic solutions to their customers.
- Staff contacted 25 retail and restaurant end users soliciting their evaluation of Lancaster as a future location for their businesses.

4. Cementitious Building Materials (completed December 2014)

Council amended the Lancaster Development Code, Article 14.500, Section 14.503 Residential Districts (a) (2) (1) to amend the exterior wall materials to define wood based products, exclude the use of wood based products, and include cementitious materials as a masonry product that can be used as an exterior architectural element.

5. Rental Registration Program

Council authorized implementation of a rental registration program that will require annual registration and inspection of properties that are rented/leased in the community. Information regarding program implementation has been communicated to property

owners January 2015 utilizing the list received from Utility Billing. Inspections and collections have commenced and are conducted on Tuesdays by the Building Official until the Building Inspector that was allocated for this program has been hired. To date, an estimated 2,500± properties will be impacted by this program as a result of Council approval. Staff will continue to monitor new utility accounts to ensure that all landlords are being identified and notified as the program continues to grow We have sent out approximately 1,200 property notices, to date. They were mailed out in January 13, 2015 and January 29, 2015. The next set of 1,200 property notices will be mailed on April 20, 2015.

6. High-end Home Development

In the second quarter, staff sent out another round of marketing letters along with the updated community brochure to continue to recruit new custom builders in the City of Lancaster. As in the past mailings, staff will include available lot inventory to assist in the process of informing builders. Custom builders have been invited to the Development Symposium scheduled for April 22, 2015.

7. Additional Considerations:

Second Quarter Commercial Code Violations

Business Name	Address	Violation	Status
Independent Plastic Recycling	103 Industrial	C O Violation	citation
Independent Plastic Recycling	103 Industrial	Inoperative Motor Vehicles	citation
Independent Plastic Recycling	103 Industrial	Outdoor Storage/ accumulation of trash	citation
Family Dollar	3155 W Pleasant Run Rd	accumulation of rubbish and garbage	compliance
Ten Minute Oil Change	1442 W Pleasant Run Rd	obsolete sign	compliance
Flashmart	3160 W Pleasant Run Rd #B	unsafe sign	pending
Bluegrove Plaza	1450 Pleasant Run Rd #142	commercial dumpster violation	pending
C-Store	701 W Pleasant Run Rd	accumulation of rubbish and garbage	pending
C-Store	701 W Pleasant Run Rd	commercial dumpster violation	pending
Valero	3160 W Pleasant Run Rd #B	commercial dumpster violation	Compliance
Aurora Health Care	3520 W Pleasant Run Rd #130	Maintenance of Signs	pending
Lancaster Shopping Center	1095 W Pleasant Run Rd	commercial dumpster violation	pending
Henderson Chicken	710 W Pleasant Run Rd	high grass and weeds	pending
Farmers Market	729 W Pleasant Run Rd	high grass and weeds	pending

Cleaners	1514 W Pleasnt Run Rd	high grass and weeds	compliance
Game Stop	404 N I35 #120	commercial dumpster violation	compliance
Game Stop	404 N I35 #120	accumulation of rubbish and garbage	compliance
Azteca	1550 N I 35 #400	accumulation of rubbish and garbage	pending
MAACO Paint	1440 N I 35 E	parking on unapproved surface	pending
I 35 Transmissions	1462 N I 35 E	parking on unapproved surface	pending
Life School	954 S I 35 E	brush bulk / illegal dumping	pending

Healthy, Safe, & Vibrant Community - Lancaster is a place where we enhance public safety in our neighborhoods. The community unites at city-wide events and participates in recreational and cultural activities that keep residents involved and engaged in their respective neighborhoods. Compassionate enforcement personnel help to sustain vibrant residential and business communities. All residents have access to Parks and leisure facilities where they live.

1. Assess Community Policing Strategy

The Hillard Heintze group was retained to complete an assessment of the Police Department. The initial evaluation has been completed and a presentation was made to Council.

2. Bathrooms at Bear Creek Park

Staff has begun evaluating infrastructure requirements and facility cost for construction of bathrooms at Bear Creek Nature Park. Staff has met and currently reviewing cost options.

3. Expand Police visibility and involvement in the community through community oriented policing, and teen/youth activities and education.

The police department continues to introduce crime prevention tools available to the neighborhoods such as Nextdoor.com, Reportit.com, and Raidsonline.com. We continue to emphasize the public safety resources and services available to them such as house checks, police2citizens and security checks.

Lancaster Police Department Update

During the period of January 1, 2015 thru March 31, 2015, the Lancaster Police Department answered a total of 16,599 calls for service. There were a total of 84 residential burglaries reported, which is an increase of 2% since last quarter. A total of 110 motor vehicle burglaries were reported which is a decrease of 20% over last

quarter. The department will continue to implement proactive strategies to reduce property and vehicle crimes within our community.

During this quarter seven new officers are currently in the Lancaster Police Department Field Training program. We welcome our newly hired Officer's Taylor, Maliband, and Beauchum. The Lancaster Police Department currently has one vacancy and the next civil service exam is scheduled for June 4, 2015.

<u>Recycling Program</u>	<u>1st Quarter Total</u>			
	2015			
Residential Tonnages	<u>January</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>2nd Quarter Total</u>
	98.80	72.77	100.15	271.72

Professional & Committed Workforce - Lancaster city government is an employer of choice with competitive pay that attracts an engaged, responsive, customer-oriented, innovative, and effective workforce. Some employees live in the City and all have a sense of ownership of the community. City employees feel needed and appreciated by elected officials, residents and businesses and are respectful to and appreciative of their customers and the City's governing body. The City's executive staff is engaged with residents and attends community events, upholds strong customer service, and uses technology to aid them in working smarter.

1. Increased Council Training Funding

The FY 2014/2015 budget reflected an increase to \$3,000 for each councilmember and \$3,500 for the Mayor. Council coordinates training opportunities through the City Secretary's office.

2. Update Compensation Survey

City Council identified the city compensation plan as an area to continuously review and amend. City Council expressed a desire to be at the middle average of the city survey cities.

Council has taken steps towards implementing action by providing a 5% pay plan adjustment with the budget adoption. While the City of Lancaster has not met the goal of the established pay policy, City Council has taken steps towards this goal.

Wellness Program

The City renewed with Methodist Health Systems for the City's wellness program. This program includes Health Risk Assessments, Fitness and Nutrition Tools, Wellness Workshops, Incentive Management and Employer and Employee Risk Factor reporting. In

our second year of reporting we have increased participation from 172 in 2013 to 182 in 2014. We are trending in a favorable direction overall; and, we are looking forward to providing more education on blood pressure and weight management as our program moves forward.

American Heart Association “Fit Friendly Worksite” Gold Achievement

Fit-Friendly Worksites are recognized by the American Heart Association as employers who go above and beyond when it comes to their employees' health. The City of Lancaster has renewed its gold membership application with the American Heart Association and look forward to continued participation in this program.

Sound Infrastructure - The City has well-maintained streets and well-planned preventative maintenance programs for infrastructure; including streets, water, stormwater, wastewater and other assets.

1. Prioritize street maintenance initiatives based on Pavement Management Program.

Staff is in the process of updating the pavement management program software, updating the system with data from repairs and routine maintenance, and re-evaluating the streets. This process is expected to be completed by the third quarter FY 2014/2015.

2. Increase Street Maintenance Funding.

City Council authorized increased funding within the FY 2014/2015 operating budget. The Public Works will utilize the street pavement management program to prioritize repairs. Cost estimates will be reviewed.

3. Plan for new Fleet Maintenance Facility.

A request for proposal was initiated to select a consultant for the purpose of planning and designing for the needs of the fleet maintenance division. Council will receive a presentation regarding site and concept plan at the April 20, 2015 work session.

Civic Engagement - The City provides a variety of opportunities for involvement through special events, boards and commissions, youth and parent volunteer opportunities in recreation, sports teams, City elections, Civic Academies, Schools and City-wide celebrations.

1. Support Lancaster Neighborhoods in the creation of Public Improvement Districts (PIDS) throughout the city to strengthen and connect neighborhoods.

The PID policy was reviewed at the March 12, 2015 PID Advisory Board meeting to receive feedback from PID's. City Council received a presentation at the March 16, 2015 Work Session. Staff continues to work with PID Boards to improve process and procedures for increased efficiencies.

Recreation Division
January 2015

- The “Educator Appreciation Breakfast” was held at the Country View Golf Course Club House. This appreciation breakfast was designed to express gratitude to the LISD Educators and Administrators for the exceptional job they do in educating our youth in the Lancaster community.
- The Lancaster Winter Basketball League was implemented from January – March 2015 for youth ages 6U through 12U. Twenty teams participated in this 8 week league which hosted close to 300 weekly spectators at the Lancaster Recreation Center Gymnasium. The Lancaster Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) participated in offering this exciting program by assisting with score keeping and bookkeeping. Three teams (8U, 10U and 12U age brackets) advanced and competed in the T.A.A.F. Regional Basketball Post Season Competition. All three teams went deep into the tournament with every athlete representing the Lancaster community respectively. All teams were recognized with participation medals.
- The Lancaster Tiger Sharks Swim Team kicked off their 2015 season. Each week athletes registered official times in all competitive strokes. Swimmers also focused on skills for turns and stroke refinement. The Tiger Sharks participants continued to motivate even the parents in obtaining better fitness and health through their commitment and hard work.
- The second quarter new players joined the Jr. Mavs coed basketball program. The Jr. Mavs Program practices throughout the year, Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:30pm – 6:30pm at the Lancaster Recreation Center Gym.
- On January 31, 2015 the City of Lancaster RBI coaches represented the Lancaster community at the Texas Rangers 2015 Coaches Clinic. Coaches attended a day long training with the Baseball Operations staff of the Texas Rangers. Amongst the esteemed panel, coaches received training from new Rangers Manager Jeff Banister and President of Baseball Operations, Jon Daniels. The volunteer coaches learned a number of coaching techniques from administering drills to establishing an overall coaching philosophy.
- Youth Advisory Committee attended the 15th Annual Texas Youth Advisory Commission (YAC) Summit on January 31, 2015. This two day statewide event was hosted by the City of Killeen and sponsored by the Texas Municipal League. This year the summit focused on building strong leaders. The Theme for the conference was “Dream and Think without Limits”. The group participated in many team building activities and were enlightened by the Keynote Speaker, David Garcia, who was voted North America’s #1 Youth Motivational Comedian by Top Youth Speakers of America in 2013. YAC members also attended the annual City of Lancaster Board and Commission Texas Open Meetings Act training and received pertinent

information regarding public information. The Youth Advisory Committee meets monthly and has participated in various volunteer opportunities within the City.

February 2015

- The annual Parent/Child Dance was held at the Recreation Center Grand Hall. Guests danced to the latest tunes and enjoyed a kid friendly menu. The guests socialized with one another on the dance floor and created lifelong friendships. The evening was highlighted with the Parent/Child Dance Contest.
- The annual Spring Registration Event was held at Cedardale Park. The Lancaster Soccer Association was joined by the RBI Baseball Association, Lancaster High School Baseball and Soccer Teams, Cedar Valley College and the Jr. Mavs coaching staff for two hours of free camps and program registration opportunities. Recreation staff distributed program information and provided a safe play area for the siblings of the participants too young to participate in the clinics and demonstrations.

March 2015

- The annual SAFE Spring Break Day Camp Program was held from Monday, March 9, 2015 – Friday, March 13, 2015 from 6:30am – 6:30pm. The participants engaged themselves in arts, fitness, nature walks and swimming. They also visited our Library and enjoyed a good book while keeping their minds sharp and ready for the remainder of the school year.
- A Pickleball Tournament was held, March 13 – 15, 2015. Participants ranging from ages 50 to 75 competed in a variety of divisions including men's and women's doubles, mixed doubles and an open division for more competitive players. Every athlete showed sportsmanship while engaging in healthy competition. The tournament was well received and participants expressed a desire for more tournaments in the future.
- The Spring 2015 Open House was held at the Recreation Center. Members and spectators enjoyed an evening of FREE programs and classes. Participants had the opportunity to sample classes and programs during the allotted timeframe. Participants received facility tours and membership information. The new users also received information about other services offered in the Quality of Life and Cultural Services Department to include Library services, the Senior Life Center and the Visitors Center and State Auxiliary Museum.
- The Lancaster RBI program unveiled their new team name and uniforms at the Opening Day festivities. Fox Sports Southwest covered the event and had plenty of exciting footage as all Lancaster teams and players were announced. The athletes also had an opportunity to meet and receive an autographed Alumni Legacy player card from former Texas Rangers player Ellis Valentine.
- The "Dive in Movie Night" program has resumed at the Lancaster Family Aquatics Center. Participants and parents watched "Toy Story II" while enjoying swimming and

activities. Participants enjoyed the experience and are looking forward to the next Dive in Movie!

- The Annual “Bunny Hop Fun Run/Walk and Egg Hunt” was held at Lancaster City Park. Participants of all ages were treated to arts and crafts, bounce houses, face painting and a variety of program demonstrations. Kids were especially excited to get a visit from the Easter Bunny. The look of anticipation was noticeable on the faces of each participant as they awaited the chance to collect as many eggs as they could gather in the celebratory Egg Hunt.
- Spring Music in The Park series “Wind Down Wednesdays” began this quarter. Residents listened to great music while lounging on the grassy area of the Helen Giddings Amphitheatre lawn. Opening week’s musical entertainment was provided by local band “N-Tense” as they performed a number of hits and classics! Each Wednesday through April this event provides local artist an exciting venue to perform and showcase their talents to the Lancaster community. This is a great way to “wind down” midweek on a beautiful evening at Lancaster Community Park.

Senior Services Division

January 2015

- The Senior Life Center staff initiated “Friday Flicks” with hot popcorn and beverages. The movie showcased during the opening week was “The Gospel Comedy All-Stars”. There was laughter galore as four gospel comedians performed in top fashion. This program has quickly become a favorite for the members of the Senior Life Center.
- The Senior Book Club has drawn in a lot of interest as member’s share reading material and stories that bound them together. The Volunteer Program Leader was a very energetic reading enthusiast that kept the group engaged.

February 2015

- The Senior Life Center members had the opportunity to visit the Cinemark Theatre in Lancaster to see the new movie “Black and White” starring Kevin Costner and Octavia Spencer. Senior members reported that the Movie was “excellent” and a must see.
- AARP Volunteers assisted citizens with the preparation of their taxes. They performed this service every Thursday, through the month of April, from 12Noon - 4pm at the Senior Life Center.
- Groom and Glamour Day was held in preparation for a celebration of the Senior Life Center’s Sweetheart Valentine Social Hour, complete with the crowning of a Senior Sweetheart King and Queen. Senior Life Center members selected Senior Member King Robert Ware and Senior Member Queen Ann Roberts. Individuals (members and their spouses and friends) attended the Senior Valentine Social and had a great time. Participants from the S.A.F.E After School Program joined in on the fun while celebrating Valentine’s Day with the seniors. They gave the seniors their time, patience and kindness as they observed, danced and enjoyed the festivities.

- The Senior Black History Program was held at the Senior Life Center. Harmonizers provided several musical selections, including The Star-Spangled Banner and The Black National Anthem. Door prizes were given away and the members were all very engaged in the Black History Bingo game. Ms. Walker, Senior Life Center Supervisor performed a monologue as Harriett Tubman. The members were quite surprised as she entered the dining hall area singing and in costume. They were captivated by the performance as she enacted portions of Harriet Tubman's life and shared her story as the Conductor of the Underground Railroad.
- Senior Life Center members had a fun filled day as they attended Senior Day at the State Capitol in Austin, TX on Tuesday, February 17, 2015 as they visited various areas of the State Capital!
- "Men's Power Hour" was facilitated by an AARP volunteer and energized the interaction and participation of the male members of the Senior Life Center.

Cultural Services Division (State Auxiliary Museum and Visitors Center)

- The Museum Advisory Board held their first meetings February 9, 2015 and March 2, 2015. These meetings consisted of reviewing of Museum Policies and Procedures and the establishment of Museum Advisory Board By-Laws. These By-laws were accepted and approved by City Council at the March 23, 2015 meeting.
- Members of the community and visitors to the City of Lancaster enjoyed "A Night at The Museum" on February 6, 2015 from 6:30pm - 8:30pm at the Lancaster Visitors Center and Texas State Auxiliary Museum. Local freelance artist and Lancaster High School graduate, Christopher "C-Ray" Rayson, displayed his creative work, including a live drawing/ painting where he brought canvas to life! Guests had the opportunity to view the many museum artifacts that highlight the rich history of Texas and Lancaster. Highlighted at this event was our newest featured exhibit that displays the history of the Cowboys of Color National Rodeo (donated by the Founder and Lancaster resident, Mr. Cleo Hearn). Guests also stopped by the Media Room to view the film named the 2014 Best Short Documentary by the Texas Black Film Festival, "The Cowboys of Color – A Multi-Cultural Legacy Volume 1".

Library Division

- New programs initiated this quarter included the "Book a Geek" program that allows citizens to book a 1-hour session with a member of library staff on a technology topic, such as iPads, tablets, Excel, Word, etc. Bookings were made 72 hours in advance in an effort to match expertise with need. Instead of waiting for a class on a particular day of the month, citizens chose a time that worked for both the patron and staff.
- "Smart Device" classes (i.e., tablet, smart phones, etc.) were implemented along with "Your Library Mobile" classes as part of the Texas State Library Impact Grant to teach users how to access the eBook and Audiobook collection, as well as, general tablet knowledge.

- “First Take Media Camp” was held as part of the Texas State Library Cooperative Grant in cooperation with LISD. LISD students began learning how to create and edit videos. This program was offered on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Session I concluded with participants creating a “Sound Track” whereas they were able to take their finished project on a provided storage drive to share with their parents, friends and fellow students. Session II began in mid-March and there will be three sessions offered in summer 2015!
- Anime for Adults class was held for those who have graduated but still have an interest in meeting with others on anime.
- The Friends of the Library had their annual book sale February 5 – 7, 2015 yielding some of the highest revenues generated in recent book sales. Proceeds from these sales go towards the purchasing of prizes and programs for the Summer Reading Program.
- Lancaster Genealogical Society offered a program called “Pint Sized Patriots” about young people, both boys and girls, who carried messages to Patriots during the Revolutionary War. The Lancaster Genealogical Society also provided their monthly program on the topic of the “Faith of the Women of Yorktown”.
- In commemoration of Black History Month, Griot Storyteller DeCee Cornish performed African stories for Library participants.
- “MobilePrint” that allows users to print documents at the Library from anywhere using their mobile device, smartphone, tablet or laptop. No need to login or connect to the Library network.

We continue working through the stated goals and objectives to realize the vision. Staff will be available to answer any questions.

Submitted by:

Opal Mauldin-Robertson, City Manager