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NEWS RELEASE

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City of Wylie Receives Three Awards

Wylie, TX, June 23, 2015 – The City of Wylie proved the old saying that good things come in threes, as it recently received awards in three distinct areas.

CLIDE Award

The City of Wylie received a Celebrating Leadership in Development Excellence, or CLIDE, Award from the North Central Texas Council of Governments for the design, construction and use of the Wylie Municipal Complex. Judges said the complex, which includes city hall, the library and the recreation center, invites diverse educational and recreational activities and incorporates good environmental stewardship into its design and operation.

To create the entry for the honor, which was given in the Special Development category, Public Services Director Mike Sferra gathered a team of employees from the park and recreation and planning departments and public information office. The award was given at a NCTCOG meeting at the Hurst Conference Center June 18.

“It says something positive about an organization that can assemble a group of capable co-workers to successfully bring recognition like this to the City of Wylie,” Sferra said. “It’s that team-spirit approach that makes Wylie such a great community.”

The CLIDE award program was created in 2003 to encourage innovative development projects and practices that will help accommodate the expected growth and ensure a sustainable North Texas for generations to come.

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TAMI Award

At the 2015 Texas Association of Municipal Information Officers (TAMIO) conference held in Houston June 17-19, Wylie won the Award of Excellence in the Best Recurring Special Event category for Bluegrass on Ballard. Judges complimented organizers on the partnership between the City of Wylie, Wylie Downtown Merchants Association and Bluegrass Heritage Foundation as well as the creativity used in marketing and funding the festival and the successful rebranding of the traditional July Jubilee event, which resulted in thousands of visitors to the downtown area.

Jeremy Meier, president of the WDMA, said, “The members of the Wylie Downtown Merchants Association greatly value the support the City of Wylie gives to downtown. Bluegrass on Ballard is an awesome event, bringing our Wylie residents downtown while also attracting thousands of first-time visitors. We are humbled at the recognition by TAMIO.”

“The partnership that makes Bluegrass on Ballard so successful is unique, and it’s gratifying to see the effort recognized by our peers,” said Public Information Officer Craig Kelly. “The cooperation between City of Wylie departments and our partner organizations creates a total that is much greater than the sum of its parts.”

Fit-Friendly Worksite

The City of Wylie had been named a Platinum Level Fit-Friendly Worksite by the American Heart Association.

For several years, Wylie achieved Gold Level status by taking health-promoting steps such as offering employees physical activity support and healthy eating options at work and promoting a wellness culture. Platinum status goes to worksites that meet Gold Level criteria and have added at least one behavior change, cost-saving outcome or positive return on investment; Wylie demonstrated a cost-saving outcome by lowering health insurance premiums for employees and their families, a step made possible by the lower number of claims filed by city employees.

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Benefits and Recruiting Specialist Rhonda Amos said of the honor, “After having been a Gold Fit Friendly Worksite for the last few years, we are very excited to have made it to the next level and achieved this honor for the City of Wylie.”

Wylie will be honored at an American Heart Association Symposium in January 2016.

Photo - Judy Truesdell and Craig Kelly1 (courtesy TAMIO)

City of Wylie Communications Specialist Judy Truesdell and Public Information Director Craig Kelly received a TAMI Award of Excellence from the Texas Association of Municipal Information Officers in Houston June 19.

2015CLIDE_Wylie (courtesy NCTCOG)

City employees on hand to receive the CLIDE Award from the North Central Texas Council of Governments were, front row from left, City Planning Director Renae Ollie, City Manager Mindy Manson, Recreation Manager Carmen Powlen, back row, Parks and Recreation Superintendent Robert Diaz, Administrative Assistant Janet Hawkes, Parks Manager Shohn Rodgers, and Public Services Director Mike Sferra.

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About Wylie – Incorporated in 1887, the City of Wylie is located just 24 miles from downtown Dallas in Collin, Dallas and Rockwall counties. Possessing an outstanding school district, a low crime rate, an ISO #1 rating and an expanding business climate, Wylie (population 44,938) is one of the fastest-growing communities in the state of Texas with a 197-percent increase since 2000.