

BRIEFS

Plano City Council elections draw two contested races

Half of the Plano City Council will be replaced in the May 9 election.

None of the four council members who are up for re-election will be on the ballot, either because they chose not to run again or are unable to run because of term limits.

Only two races will be contested.

Former council member Jim McGee and retiree Tom Harrison will face off for Pat Gallagher's Place 7 seat.

Financial representative Matt Lagos will face real estate broker Mike Mansfield and Ron Kelley, director of a nonprofit organization, for the Place 5 seat currently held by Jim Duggan.

A member of the Miner family will keep the Place 1 seat. Community volunteer Angela Miner is running for the seat that her husband, Pat, has to vacate because of term limits. Executive Rick Grady is on the ballot for Andre Davidson's Place 3 seat.

Wendy Hundley

Two races to be contested in Wylie City Council elections

Two open seats on the Wylie City Council have drawn several candidates in the upcoming May elections.

Place 2 incumbent Nathan Scott is not running for re-election. Three women have filed to run to replace him: Diane L. Culver, a client processing specialist; Lisa Mellers, a graphic designer; and Catherine Butschek, an insurance broker.

Incumbent Bennie Jones will run for re-election. He is being challenged by Brooke E. Lopez, a student and retail worker; Candiece Arrington, an accountant; and Brad Emerson, a business owner.

Meredith Shamburger

Neil Matkin becomes third president of Collin College

Collin College has named its sole finalist to lead the district as president.

Neil Matkin, executive vice president of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, beat out 39 other applicants hoping to become chief of the community college district, which includes seven campuses, district spokeswoman Lisa Vasquez said. Matkin is set to replace Cary A. Israel, who announced his resignation in September after nearly 16 years in the position.

Matkin will become the district's third president, Vasquez said.

He has previously served as president

of the Central Campus of San Jacinto College and held administrative and staff positions with the Virginia Community College System, the Illinois Board of Higher Education and Ambassador University in Big Sandy, where he earned a bachelor's degree in liberal arts and theology.

He also earned a master's degree in telecommunications management from Golden Gate University, an MBA from the University of Dallas and a doctorate of education from Texas A&M University-Commerce.

Claire Z. Cardona

Plano officials boost funding to maintain water quality

Plano is boosting funding to help maintain the city's water quality, which can be affected by drought and conservation measures.

The council recently approved \$250,863 for three new water quality technicians to increase water testing and \$331,534 to buy solar-powered mixing devices for four storage tanks at the Ridgeview Pump Station.

Officials say the system is designed to move water, not store it. When less water is used, it remains in storage longer, affecting the quality.

In recent years, tests revealed the presence of coliform bacteria, concentrations of nitrates and other indicators of declining quality. Last year, despite limiting water use, the city flushed \$150,000 of water from hydrants to move water through the system.

W.H.

3 police officers will soon be patrolling downtown Plano

With the growth in downtown Plano, the city plans to add two new officers to patrol the busy entertainment and residential area.

Only one officer has patrolled downtown since 2002, when the DART light-rail station and the first Eastside Village opened, Police Chief Greg Rushin told the Plano City Council recently.

The downtown area now has more apartments, 14 restaurants serving alcohol and two new apartment complexes with retail and commercial space to be completed in the coming months, Rushin said.

It will take 12 to 18 months to hire and train the officers.

The council approved \$190,000 for the new positions and other costs related to the Neighborhood Patrol Officer Program.

W.H.



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The Church Basement Ladies in The Last (Potluck) Supper



A matinee has been added on Thu, Mar. 12 at 2 pm and *The Last (Potluck) Supper* is a great show for your group to attend. Groups of 10 or more get a 10% discount on tickets. Call our Group Sales Coordinator at 972.744.4657 to book your group today.

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