

# City of Bethany Newsletter

FROM THE CITY MANAGER'S DESK...

January 2017

Happy New Year Bethany!

My family and I have enjoyed our community immensely in the brief time that we've been here. Exciting things are happening in Bethany and I am deeply grateful to have been invited to join this community at such an opportune time!

We currently have many efforts and initiatives in the works for the betterment of Bethany in the future; such as economic development, community involvement and development, public transportation improvements, a new library, parks and other public improvements. This isn't to mention all of the millions of dollars of private investment currently going into our community for several major projects, which includes Southern Plaza and the Children's Hospital, among others. I will write more about all of these things in the near future.

It's hard to hold back my enthusiasm for Bethany's bright future! I appreciate the strong support that the Mayor and Council have provided and very much look forward to our future success!

If you should have an interest in any of the initiatives discussed in this newsletter, please fill out the Board Application Form that I have also enclosed. You may drop it off at our location at 6700 NW 36th, or you may email it to [Linda.Warner@bethanyok.org](mailto:Linda.Warner@bethanyok.org). The fillable form application is also available online at [www.bethanyok.org](http://www.bethanyok.org).



Let's work together to make 2017 Bethany's best year yet!

J. D. Cox, City Manager

## Help Us Help You

I am happy to share with you that City Council recently approved several initiatives to assist in developing or achieving our community goals, as defined in our Bethany Comprehensive Plan 2030, and also to garner more public involvement in our community. To that end, we are now forming all of the following boards:

***Parks, Recreation & Trees Advisory Board***

***Cemetery Improvement Task Force***

***Arts & Culture Advisory Board***

***Vision 2030 Branding & Logo Task Force***

Do you have a background in or a passion for parks, arbor, or recreation? Then perhaps our new ***Parks, Recreation & Trees Advisory Board (PR&TAB)*** is for you! I anticipate working closely with this new seven-person board to make recommendations for improvements to our public spaces, including parks, walking trails, recreation, fountains/splash areas, etc., as well as our arbor canopy. I anticipate some excursions to view our and other facilities around the community, as well as tapping into expert guidance.

Perhaps there might be others that have a background in or have the same kind of passion for Arts and Culture? We are also looking for seven folks that will form our new ***Arts & Culture Advisory Board***. This has all the makings of an exciting initiative, manned by a group that can help us formulate a vision for public art in the future that will reflect and promote the "brand" that we want the world to think of when they think of Bethany. It could be reflective of the past or envision the future... or perhaps a little bit of both!

## Help Us Help You *continued...*

Speaking of our "branding," I suspect we have many creative "idea people" in our community that could help us with our initiative to create that "brand" for our community. What do we wish the world to see and think about when they think of Bethany? This new *Vision 2030 Branding & Logo Task Force* will be charged with helping define this new community "brand," that can then be reflected and incorporated by a new logo, new community art (see above), city signs, etc. Perhaps one day, businesses may even wish or choose to pick up on this new brand to promote that they are a part of this rejuvenated Bethany.

Still, there may be others that have a passion for our community's burial grounds. Our new Comprehensive Plan also identifies and calls for an upgrade to the appearance of our most hallowed property. If you have an interest in this, would you kindly consider being a part of our new *Cemetery Improvement Task Force*?

Enclosed in this letter is an application for serving on a city board. If you have an interest in one of these boards, please fill out the application and return it to Linda Warner's attention. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

## Code Enforcement Update/Tree Trimming

Last month I wrote about our stepped-up efforts to enforce our code and care of properties in the community. Large strides are being accomplished as the police department has stepped in and is playing a large role. Since November, police and staff have made 137 code compliance contacts. The police report 97% voluntary compliance. The other 3% will plead their case to our Municipal Judge. I certainly appreciate everyone's efforts as we continue to press on. In the meantime, Fire Chief SR Hunter spoke with me about a growing concern with tree limbs hanging over streets and sidewalks. This causes problems and could damage our firetrucks and any other tall private vehicles traveling on various streets. Did you know it is the homeowners' responsibility to trim his/her trees (even the ones that hang over city streets) to no lower than 12' over the street and 8' over sidewalks? With that said, when weather allows, with trees mostly dormant and many leaves fallen, now is a great time to trim back those trees to the appropriate height. Please help us and your neighbors by reporting properties or structures that you might be concerned with. You may email concerns to [Paul.Justice@bethanyok.org](mailto:Paul.Justice@bethanyok.org) or call 789-6005.

## *Happy New Year from the City of Bethany!*



*"Cutting capers in the city's first snow of the winter are Bethany Nazarene College freshmen Nikki Finney, left, Orlando, Fla., and Mary Frances Thompson, Tulsa."*

*January 19, 1966*

## Local Newspaper

The final thought I have for you is the importance of carving out those things in our community that set us apart and make us special so we are not lost in the greater metro. It is vital to have a local hometown newspaper. To that end, the City has been developing a renewed and inspired relationship with our local newspaper, the Tribune. I am pleased to share that our announcements, job openings, and local news can all be found in our community's Tribune.