

WHERE WE LIVE

Fall 2020

General Election
Fire Safety
Community Policing



CONTENTS

Our Community..... 4

Healthy Hurst..... 12

Safety 16

Park System..... 26

CITY COUNCIL

- Henry Wilson Mayor
- Jon McKenzie Mayor Pro Tem
- David Booe Council Member
- Cathy Thompson Council Member
- Bill McLendon Council Member
- Larry Kitchens Council Member
- Cindy Shepard Council Member

CITY STAFF

- Clay Caruthers City Manager
- Clayton Fulton Assistant City Manager
- Malaika Farmer Assistant City Manager
- Greg Dickens Executive Director of Public Works
- Rita Frick City Secretary
- Steve Niekamp Police Chief
- David Palla Fire Chief
- Matia Messemer Executive Director of Human Resources
- Steve Bowden Executive Director of Economic Development and Tourism
- Kyle Gordon Executive Director of Community Services
- Michelle Lazo Executive Director of Planning and Community Development
- Kara McKinney Public Information Officer



ON THE COVER

Since the pandemic made its way to Hurst in March, we have had to make some adjustments in how we serve the public. One of the ways the Hurst Public Library has successfully continued to serve their patrons is offering curb side pickup! They quickly developed this system to make sure everyone stayed safe including keeping all returned items in holding for three days. Staff launched a new subscription service where they pick out the books for you which has been a fun surprise each time for avid readers! The Library, Recreation Center and Senior Center have hosted virtual classes and events during these last few months. You can find out about all the creative ways staff has been staying connected to our residents on page 14. These have certainly been strange times, but by using our creativity and keeping a positive mindset, we have been able to continue serving our residents to the best of our ability and have a little fun while doing so!



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

This summer looked significantly different in Hurst than in years past, and I sure did miss being able to connect with you in person. I want to thank you for your understanding of the gravity of the situation during the pandemic both in terms of the health of our community as well as the financial strain we have been experiencing. We still have some work to do, but by altering our summer plans and activities, we are in a more promising financial situation where we can continue to provide essential and expected services to our residents.

I am hopeful that in the near future, we can enjoy gathering at our scheduled events and enjoy our city facilities and services together. As of right now, the majority of our fall classes, events and programs have been canceled in an effort keep everyone safe. The best way to stay up-to-date on the status of our activities is by visiting our website, connecting with us on social media and signing up for our email/text notification system at hursttx.gov/getconnected.

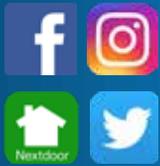
You might notice some changes to our Where We Live magazine which includes the elimination of our recreation, senior and library event and class schedule. When our classes and programs resume in the future,

we will publish a separate Recreation Guide to host all of the recreation info for the season which will be available for pickup at the Recreation Center and posted online at hursttx.gov/recreation. The Senior Center virtual class schedule can be found in the Senior Pipeline made available online at hursttx.gov/seniorpipeline. You can also find the Library's class and event schedule at the Library or online at hursttx.gov/library when they are back open for regular business. We will announce any future re-openings at hursttx.gov and our social media platforms.

As you know, it's more important than ever to Shop First in Hurst and contribute to the success of our local businesses after taking such a huge hit during the pandemic. For details on how you can access a list of all businesses in Hurst separated by category, turn to page 5.

Through all we have experienced over the last several months, Hurst has remained a community built on connection and continued to stay strong and hopeful during these challenging times. Myself and the entire city council are grateful to serve our residents and look forward to connecting with you in person very soon.

— Mayor Henry Wilson



The Social Media Connection

City of Hurst

WEBSITE: www.HurstTX.gov
FACEBOOK: @CityofHurstTX
TWITTER: @TheCityofHurst
INSTAGRAM: @CityofHurstTX
NEXTDOOR: City of Hurst

Hurst Public Library

WEBSITE: www.HurstTX.gov/Library
FACEBOOK: @HurstPublicLibrary
TWITTER: @HurstLibrary
INSTAGRAM: @HurstPublicLibrary

Hurst Public Safety

FACEBOOK: @HurstPublicSafety
TWITTER: @HurstPoliceDept, @HurstFireDept
NEXTDOOR: Hurst Police Department

Hurst Conference Center

WEBSITE: www.HurstCC.com
FACEBOOK: @HurstCC
INSTAGRAM: @HurstConferenceCenter

Hurst Recreation Center

FACEBOOK: @HurstParksandRecreation
INSTAGRAM: @HurstParksandRecreation

Hurst Senior Activities Center

FACEBOOK: @HurstSeniorActivitiesCenter



OUR COMMUNITY

Budget Update

The City of Hurst recently adopted the annual budget for Fiscal Year 20-21, which begins on October 1. Each year, the city follows a strategic planning process in developing the annual budget. However, this year proved challenging as we all adjusted to changes in our world and community as we grappled with responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. The city council works to ensure that our budget considers citizen input and uses our Strategic Plan as a guide. Throughout our citizen surveys, public safety and infrastructure continue to be services that our community values and relies upon. In fact, these are core to the council's strategic priorities as well. The FY 20-21 budget continues to invest in public safety and infrastructure. These two items are closely linked as you cannot provide public safety without adequate infrastructure. While we are proud to continue to invest in these priorities, the city was faced with difficult decisions related to the economic uncertainties brought on by the pandemic.

Early in our response to the pandemic, we froze vacant positions and reduced some of our community services. Unfortunately, we were not able to offer any aquatics programs over the summer. This and other reductions in services were made out of the need to maintain the city's financial sustainability. As we cut back on spending, we focused on maintaining the most critical functions core to municipalities. As we progressed through the budget process, we were able to restore some level of all our community services for FY 20-21; however, as we progress throughout FY 20-21, we anticipated amendments to the budget as we adjust to changes in the economy. We are hopeful these changes will allow us to recognize an increase in sales tax revenue and be able to restore reduced services but could result in further cuts should they prove necessary. The city had to employ several tools to ensure we adopted a budget in line with our strategic priorities and remained balanced and financially sustainability. We were faced with a projected 10.68% decrease in sales tax revenue. This is a significant portion of our budget. Therefore, the adopted budget includes a tax rate of \$0.625159. The tax rate was one tool used along with the one time use of reserves to support our revenues, and we also cut expenditures by 3.14%. We appreciate the continued community support and understanding as we work to ensure sustainable services that meet community needs.

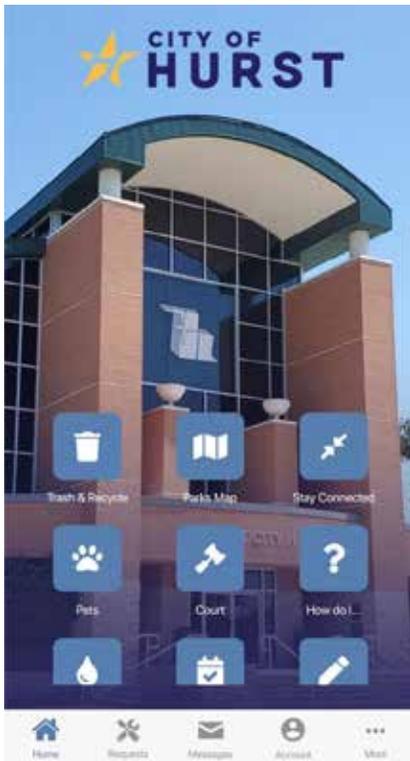
SHOP FIRST IN HURST

We always encourage Shopping First in Hurst, but right now is especially important as we work to support our local businesses after suffering financially during the pandemic. It is easier than ever to find Hurst businesses to support. On our Where We Live mobile app, you can get access to our retail guide and search by the category of service you are looking for. The same simple feature is available on our website at hursttx.gov/retailguide.

When you support locally, you are investing money back into your own community which contributes to the services and programs we all know and love here in Hurst. Thank you for continuing to Shop First in Hurst!



Updates to *Where We Live* mobile app



Our Hurst Where We Live mobile app was recently updated with an all new look and an easier user interface. The upgrade includes the use of icons on the home screen to quickly navigate to information. In addition to the new look and easier use, the performance has improved, saving you time!

You can still use the app to report issues around Hurst, complete with a photo if you would like to include one. This option has been moved to the bottom of the app screen and is titled “Requests.” When a request is received in the system, it is automatically routed to the appropriate city staff member for addressing. You will be informed via push notifications on the status of your issue request and when it is resolved.

The Hurst Where We Live mobile app can be found in both the Google Playstore and iTunes. Just search for Hurst Where We Live and download your city app today!

2020

★ ★ **ELECTIONS** ★ ★

General Election and Special Election

November 3, 2020

The City of Hurst will hold a General Election to elect persons to fill the offices of City Council Place 3 (Mayor), 4, 5 and 7 and a Special Election to allow voters to consider voting for or against the following proposition: “the legal sale of all alcoholic beverages for off-premise consumption only.”

www.hursttx.gov/election

Election Day:

Registered voters may vote at any Tarrant County election day polling location from 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. on Election Day. For all locations, visit Tarrant County Elections:

<http://access.tarrantcounty.com/en/elections.html>

Early Voting:

Registered voters may vote at any early voting polling location within Tarrant County. For all locations, days and hours, visit Tarrant County Elections:

<http://access.tarrantcounty.com/en/elections.html>

For all additional voting information for the November 3, 2020 General and Special Election, visit Tarrant County Elections:

<http://access.tarrantcounty.com/en/elections.html>

or call Tarrant County Elections Administration at 817.831.8683. You may also contact the City Secretary’s Office at 817-788-7043 for assistance or visit www.hursttx.gov/election

Para traducciones a español y vietnamita,
www.hursttx.gov/election

Để xem các bản dịch bằng tiếng Tây Ban Nha và tiếng Việt,
vui lòng truy cập www.hursttx.gov/election



New Stores in Hurst

We are excited to share that in the last few months, we have welcomed Hobby Lobby, Tuesday Morning and Shoe Carnival to Hurst! Residents have requested these stores for years, and we are thrilled they chose to open up these locations in our area. Hobby Lobby and Tuesday morning are located on Pipeline Rd., and the Shoe Carnival is in the Shops at North East Mall. These businesses are going to be a great asset to our community, so make sure you stop in and support them!





2019 Youth in Government graduating class

YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

Partnership program offers high school students volunteer and scholarship opportunities

We're gearing up for our next HEB Youth In Government program! We are partnering with the HEB Chamber and Cities of Bedford and Euless to offer a dynamic program to high school juniors and seniors living in Hurst, Euless or Bedford. We will begin accepting applications online this fall on the HEB Chamber's website.

This year's program will run from January-May and will include presentations on city departments and operations, volunteer and shadow opportunities, information on local nonprofits and opportunities to meet local officials and city staff. We are proud to partner again this year with Republic Services to offer students a chance to win a college scholarship! For all the details and to easily apply online, visit heb.org/heb-youth-government-class-2021.

PROPERTY PRIDE

Have you noticed any of your neighbors going the extra yard?

Seasonal Property Maintenance Award

- Anyone can nominate a property in Hurst!
- Only residential properties in the City of Hurst are eligible for the award.
- Four properties per season will be chosen by Neighborhood Services.
- Nominations should be made for overall property maintenance including, but not limited to, painting and landscaping.
- Winning properties will receive a yard display and could be featured on the city website.
- Properties are eligible to receive the award once every 3 years.

**Nominate them at
hursttx.gov/propertypride**



The latest winner of Hurst's Seasonal Property Maintenance Award. "The house has really changed for the better in the last 2 years!" — Nominator

Let's Tackle Grease in the Kitchen

Why Should I Help?

- Prevent grease buildups from blocking sewer lines
- Stop sewer overflows into streets and storm drains
- Save money spent on costly cleanups of sewage spills
- Reduce the number of times you have to clean your grease trap (food services)
- Protect the quality of our water

Do

- Put oil and grease in covered collection containers
- Scrape food scraps from dishes into trashcans and garbage bags and dispose of properly to avoid using your garbage disposal.
- Remove oil and grease from dishes, pans, fryers and griddles. Cool first before you skim, scrape or wipe off excess grease.
- Prewash dishes and pans with cold water before putting them into the dishwasher.
- Cover kitchen sink with catch basket and empty into garbage can as needed.

- Cover floor drain with fine screen and empty into garbage as needed.

Don't

- Don't pour oil and grease down the drain.
- Don't put food scraps down the drain.
- Don't run water over dishes, pans, fryers and griddles to wash oil and grease down the drain.
- Don't rinse off oil and grease with hot water.

More ways to tackle grease . . .

- Use environmentally safe cleaning products instead of harsh detergents or cleaners that can damage sewer lines.
- If you generate large amounts of used cooking oil, recycle it. To find a recycler, search "recyclers" or "rendering companies" online.
- If you generate small amounts of used cooking oil, pour it into a container you can throw away. Never pour it down the drain.
- Start a compost pile at your home with scraps that are not meat.

Utility Billing Contactless Payments

We are all looking for ways to safely conduct business during this time. Our Utility Billing Department offers several payment options. Staff is available if you'd like to pay over the phone by calling 817-788-7040, or you can pay on our website by visiting hursttx.gov/utilitybilling. You can also visit a location that is supported by Fidelity Express & XPress Pay. All

available locations are listed at hursttx.gov/utilitybilling.

We also welcome you to drop off your payment at our drop box located outside of the Utility Billing area of city hall. If you have any questions about payments, please give us a call, and we'd be happy to help you figure out the best method for you!

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Saturday, October 10 | 8-11 a.m.

Hurst Service Center | 2001 Precinct Line Rd.

Bring your household hazardous waste to the Service Center along with an ID and Hurst water bill.

Accepted items: Automotive fluids, batteries, cleaners and degreasers, cooking oil, lawn/garden/pool chemicals, light bulbs and paint. There is a limit on paint of three five-gallon containers.

Items not accepted: Ammunition or explosives, appliances or electronics, building materials, bulk

trash and yard waste, butane or propane cylinders, medicines or sharps, and tires.

Document shredding will be available. Three (3) box limit, no larger than 15"x12"x10" accepted. Limited space. First come, first served.

If you can't make this event and would like to take your household hazardous waste items to the Environmental Collection Center in Fort Worth, you can find all the details at hursttx.gov/trash.

Fall/Holiday Grease Roundup

Nov. 25-Jan. 5

Hurst Service Center | 2001 Precinct Line Rd.

This holiday season, we're making it easier than ever to Cease the Grease! You can recycle it for FREE at our drop-off location at the north end of the Service Center parking lot.





FOCUS ON HEALTH

Goals, friends, rewards
help get health back on track



This year has been pretty strange, don't you think? Maybe it has made you feel anxious about staying healthy or even attempting your normal routines.

Here at Healthy Hurst we understand and want to help. During these strange times, we have been getting questions about how to stay focused or get back on track when it comes to our health. Here are three powerful strategies you can use to help you stick to your goals no matter what comes your way:

Recommit to your goal:

Having goals on our minds and constantly within our sight helps us to stay committed. Write down your goal, no matter what it is, where you can see it every day.

One of our Healthy Hurst members wrote her goal to move every day on her bathroom mirror (we recommend dry erase marker) and put a check mark next to it each day after she did it.

This visual reminder kept her highly motivated to get more marks up there. Even her kids got in on the fun checking with her to see if she met her goal so they could write on the mirror, too!

Get a buddy:

Ask a friend or family member to join you and work towards your goal so that both are more motivated and accountable to make it happen. This can be virtual or in person. If you don't have a buddy, join us at the Hurst Recreation Center, and you might

just meet one (from a safe social distance of course).

Another Healthy Hurst member, Cindy, did this by setting a walking date with her sister three days a week. They met, walked and talked so regularly, they actually won a challenge for how many steps they completed!

Cindy later told us it was fun to meet her healthy goals, but the best part was staying close to her sister even through hard times like recovering from breast cancer.

Choose a tangible reward:

When there is a goal or a reward we are working towards, research shows that humans are seven times more likely to work towards reaching it!

Pick a reward you really want to have if you complete a specific, measurable and time restricted goal!

Currently, we have a Healthy Hurst participant who has hung a new outfit on her closet door so she sees it many times every day. She cannot forget her goal to feel comfortable in it while making choices every day.

We care about all our residents and members of the Healthy Hurst program and strive to serve you in the best way possible. Make sure to let us know how we can be a help to you, and keep up to date with everything going on through the Hurst Parks & Recreation FB and IG accounts. Stay safe and healthy!



CITY OF HURST

COMMUNITY SERVICES: COVID-19 RESPONSE



The Recreation Center reopened its doors with safety precautions in place to keep members safe!



The Library provided Curbside Service which created a safe way for patrons to pick up books, DVDs, ILLs, and more!



The Tennis Center offered lessons, court rentals, tournaments, and free play! Pro tip: Tennis is a great sport for social distancing!

HURST PUBLIC LIBRARY 

LIBRARY SERVICES Effective August 3rd, 2020
Visit www.hursttx.gov/hplonline for more information about online and virtual services

HOURS
Monday - Friday
10 AM - 6 PM

- By Appointment Only (817)788-7300**
Computer Access
Wi-Fi Access
Copy Center
Printing/Mobile Printing
Fax Services
New Library Cards
Fine Payments
Reference Services
Readers' Advisory
Notary Services
Proctoring
Tech Advisory
Study Room Reservations
Friends Cafe shopping
- Online Services 24/7**
www.hursttx.gov/library
Virtual Programming
Online Library Card Signup
E-books
E-audio books
Language learning
Genealogy
And much more!
- Library Subscription Service**
Sign up and let us pick books for you!

Curbside Pick Up
Place holds through online catalog and pick up curbside





Parks & Recreation participated in July's National Park & Recreation Month by sharing attributes that represent how staff serves our community! You can view them all on the Hurst Parks and Recreation Facebook page!



The Senior Activities Center created virtual work outs to keep members active!

How our new monthly subscription service works!



STEP ONE

Sign up and take our questionnaire! Signing up is free and easy with a Library card. Adults only (for now).



STEP TWO

Librarians select 3 books we think you'd like each month based on your preferences.



STEP THREE

We call you and let you know your books are ready at the start of each month!



STEP FOUR

Let us know how you liked your curated subscription!

Sign up in person or online at www.hursttx.gov/library



The Library debuted a brand new subscription service!

For a full list of offerings and the most up-to-date information on services, please visit our Facebook pages and www.hursttx.gov/coronavirus



Look, listen and learn steps to fire safety

October is Fire Safety Month, and we want to remind you of a few steps to take to reduce the likelihood of having a fire—and how to escape safely in the event of one.

“LOOK” for places fire could start. Take a good look around your home. Identify potential fire hazards and take care of them.

“LISTEN” for the sound of the smoke alarm. You could have only minutes to escape safely once the smoke alarm sounds. Go to your outside meeting place, which should be a safe distance from the home and where everyone should meet.

“LEARN” two ways out of every room, and make sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily and are free of clutter.







Nine Hurst CERT members participate in an eight hour training and drill at the Dallas CERT Spring Training Event.

CERT

Volunteers learn techniques to aid first responders during emergencies

If a major disaster affects Hurst, our citizens may be forced to rely on each other for help in order to meet their immediate life-saving and life-sustaining needs. Sponsored by the Hurst Fire Department, the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is a training program that prepares citizen volunteers to respond to emergency situations that may affect our community. This program teaches emergency preparedness and basic disaster response techniques that will prepare citizen volunteers to take an active role in providing critical support to professional first response members during emergencies. The instructions include basic first aid, triage, small fire suppression, light search and rescue methods, communications, cribbing and an introduction to the Incident Command System.

Since its inauguration in 2014, the Hurst CERT has provided support personnel for the city's 4th of July celebration and the annual Christmas Tree Lighting event. Additionally, in 2015 Hurst deployed CERT members to supplement the post tornado effort in Rowlett and provided personnel to Ft. Worth and Dallas in 2017 to assist at their Hurricane Harvey shelters.

The CERT program is open to Hurst residents who are 18 years or older, can perform some physical activity and can pass a background check.

Applications are available at the Hurst Fire Station #1, 2100 Precinct Line Rd. or at hursttx.gov/cert.



Free Clean-Up Days

As part of our Good Neighbor Program we have coordinated with Republic Services to offer additional curbside pickup days on October 3 (for those with Monday & Thursday garbage service) and October 10 (for those with Tuesday & Friday garbage service). You can leave your bulky or green waste items at your curb, and just make sure that loose items are bundled or containerized. Be sure to have items placed at the curb by 7 a.m. to guarantee collection. Visit hursttx.gov/gnp for more details and a list of accepted items.

Ambulance Subscription

Enroll now through December 31

The City of Hurst is offering citizens an ambulance subscription service to help offset the costs of emergency ambulance transportation. Insurance companies routinely do not pay the entire amount of ambulance transportation, leaving the patient with the responsibility of paying the balance of the bill. The purpose of the subscription service is to cover the amount not covered by your insurance provider or Medicare. If a person does not have health care insurance, this program covers emergency medical services delivered prior to hospital arrival.

For \$60 per year per family, you will never have to worry about paying an ambulance bill. Medicaid Recipients are not eligible for this program.

For all the details, search Ambulance Subscription at hursttx.gov.



Photo by Parker Vandergriff

Hurst Citizens Fire Academy Alumni Association 2020 Steak Dinner Update

In an abundance of caution, the 2020 Hurst Fire Department Steak Dinner, sponsored by the Hurst Citizens Fire Academy Alumni Association, has been canceled due to the pandemic. We do not feel like we could safely accommodate the 600 guests who faithfully attend. We look forward to seeing you for our 2021 Hurst Fire Department Steak dinner on October 9, 2021.



MENTAL HEALTH COMMUNITY POLICING

Hurst, Euless and Bedford Police Departments lead in community outreach

The Hurst, Euless, and Bedford (HEB) Texas Community Mental Health Monitoring Model (HEB Model) was originally created in 2008 by the Hurst Police Department after recognizing a growing community need. Over time, it has transformed into a joint collaborative

effort between three police departments in neighboring cities – Hurst, Euless, and Bedford. The purpose of the proactive model is to reduce the reinstitutionalization of persons with mental illness by monitoring them in the community and coordinating the appropriate treatment services



Hurst Justice Center

and resources needed. The HEB Model pairs a mental health professional and certified mental health peace officer with the sole goal of following up on community members with mental illnesses in each city. HEB's collaborative effort not only responds to in-progress calls involving persons with mental illness, but the team also conducts post-hospitalization follow-ups, performs wellness

checks, and tracks high risk clients who could pose a threat to the community. In essence, the system is a true mental health community policing model that attempts to prevent potential negative outcomes for those with mental illness within the cities' populations before hospitalization or incarceration is necessary.

Another purpose of the HEB Model is to provide training to police employees on how to effectively deal with persons with mental illness whom the officers encounter on a daily basis. The proper training of employees to deal with clients with mental illness is essential, so officers can assist the redirection of clients back to treatment services for their safety and continuity of care. It is also essential that employees receive mental health training in order to increase officer safety, as well as the safety of the community as a whole. It is worth noting that all Hurst Police officers receive mental health training and certification.

In accordance with the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) regulations, the Basic Police Officer Academy requires at least 16 hours of initial CIT and instruction on the Mental Health Code for police recruits. However, once officers complete basic training they are put into the field where they commonly encounter citizens with mental illness without any additional specialized training. The HEB Model's goal is to provide all peace officers an additional 40 hours of Mental Health Training. Other police employees who interact with persons with mental illness are also encouraged to attend the training. The mental health training covers three main areas: (1) understanding mental illness; (2) identifying those with mental illness who may be in crisis; and (3) communicating and interacting with persons with mental illness in a nonviolent way to reduce their distress and de-escalate the situation. This approach to additional training also allows for the increase of effective communication between law enforcement personnel and mental health professionals. Such efforts may assist law enforcement and mental health professionals join forces to provide the most effective means of managing persons with mental illness who are in crisis.

Another important aspect of the HEB model is the diversion of clients who have been incarcerated for minor charges in one of the three cities' jails. For instance, if a person with mental illness is arrested for public intoxication, simple assault, or another minor charge and is acting out in the jail due to mental health issues, the client can be diverted to the hospital for treatment since the jails are not equipped with all means necessary to stabilize the client. A post-hospitalization follow-up is then attempted upon the individual's release. If

These officers see the importance of community mental health monitoring as one of the cornerstones in the foundation of community policing.

the client has committed a serious crime, a request will be made to the local mental health authority to have the client evaluated in the county jail. If needed, a follow-up will be completed should the client bond out. The goal of the follow-up element of the program is to ensure the client is taking any prescribed medication and attending treatment appointments. The follow-up program stresses to the client the need to follow the treatment plan or the consequences of reoffending. The time spent on the preventive focus is more advantageous than the required time that would be required to manage an involuntary committal, and the family members of the clients appreciate the proactive assistance they receive and understand they are not being left alone to try and deal with the issues inherent with a family member who has a mental illness. Before this program was implemented, the departments dealt with mostly persons with



Therapy dog, Bella, checks out the new Dream Court at Vivagene Copeland Park. She is a part of the Peer Support Team in partnership with Hurst, Euless, Bedford and Grapevine.

mental illness only when something tragic had occurred. Now, when it is determined that a client has a mental health issue, the police departments become involved in helping to coordinate services. Another important aspect is our Mental Health Patrol, where a clinician and a mental health peace officer go out on the street together and take a proactive approach. This co-responding engages citizens with mental health issues, the homeless, citizens in a crisis, or any other patrol call that may have a mental health component. This is a unique way to help patrol when dealing with these crisis situations, as well as coordinate the appropriate services.

This collaborative partnership of the Hurst, Euless, and Bedford Police Departments has been instrumental in reducing repeat calls for service.

By working together to identify people with mental illnesses early in the process, a preventive process has been realized. This preventive approach has decrease the number of people institutionalized in the cities' hospitals or jails and increased public, officer, and client safety. One may ask what type and caliber of officer is needed to work in the clinical realm of community policing. From the perspective of a forensic social worker, a strong understanding of mental health is incredibility pertinent. This competency can be achieved with the basic CIT and a 40-hour certification as a Mental Health Peace Officer (MHPO) in the state of Texas. Beyond the basic knowledge and the ability to apply the theoretical perspective of making a good diagnostic impression, an officer must have another element that cannot be taught in a classroom – this highly trained, tactically



Officer Hewage is sworn into the Hurst Police Department.

mindful, and clinically prepared officer must have a strong desire to utilize all of this training to have a positive impact in the community, even when a therapeutic confrontation is warranted. This desire is best described as passion – the strong emotional urge to have a consistently positive impact in the lives of all citizens, including those with special needs. These officers see the importance of community mental health monitoring as one of the cornerstones in the foundation of community policing. Understanding the needs of persons with mental illness and possessing not only the expertise, but also the passion to make good clinical decisions is the core of the preventive approach encapsulated within the HEB Community Mental Health Monitoring Model. Passion for this type of policing is what makes the model work. The officers find a sense of accomplishment and purpose in knowing that they are having an impact, not only in the lives of the clients, but the lives of the family members who are desperately in need of assistance and resources for their loved ones. This facet of community policing truly takes exceptional peace officers to succeed.

These facts led the Hurst Police Department leadership to wonder why only certain officers

were undergoing advanced training – and if those specifically trained officers would be available when most urgent mental health related calls come in. Would it not be better for the department and the citizens if all officers have the advanced training so there will be better outcomes for all, regardless of which officer responds? Sometimes it is impossible for officers to avoid permissible use of force, but having officers better trained to deal with persons experiencing mental health crisis decreases the likelihood. Police departments also know the time required to complete the involuntary committal process to get someone in crisis into a local psychiatric hospital is extensive and can be a strain on manpower. Therefore, partnering a mental health professional and a police officer

Partnering a mental health professional and a police officer for the preventive aspect of the program is beneficial for the client, the family, and the police department.

for the preventive aspect of the program is beneficial for the client, the family, and the police department. This approach ultimately comes down to appropriately managing a population of citizens who, in essence, have “fallen through the cracks”. The hope is that a collaborative effort by the police departments can slow the process of reinstitutionalization and provide more treatment options to the clients, as well as additional support to their families. Although resources are limited for police departments, they cannot afford to ignore this issue in their communities given the frequent interactions between law enforcement and persons

with mental illness. Officers are sometimes selected for specialized training in areas such as narcotics enforcement and crime scene investigations, however, mental health related issues are growing naturally, and all officers will likely be called to incidents involving individuals with special needs. This type of effort is an ongoing challenge for all police departments, but, with the appropriate training and partnerships,

such as those employed in the HEB model, it is a challenge that can be met successfully today and in the future.

Police departments across the nation have implemented the HEB Model since it was established in 2008, and we are hopeful that many more departments will see this as a vital tool to better serve their communities.



Hurst police vehicle in front of the Hurst Justice Center.

PARK SYSTEM

Taking Care of City Parks

We make sure our crews inspect our parks on a regular basis, however, litter and vandalism still may occur and additional maintenance may be needed between crew visits. The next time you visit one of our parks and you notice anything that needs attention, please notify the Parks Department at 817-788-7220 or submit a request through the Where We Live mobile app.

www.HurstTX.gov/Parks

Facilities

- A** Hurst Conference Center
- B** Brookside Center
- C** Hurst Library
- D** Hurst Senior Center



1 Cotton Belt Trail

7300 block of Precinct Line Road

- Railway Bridge
- The Hurst section of trail is one mile
- Shade

2 Echo Hills Park

500 Heneretta Drive // 7.1 Acres

- Pavilion
- Playground
- Jogging/Walking Trail System (1/3 mile)
- Picnic Tables
- Youth Athletic Practice Fields (Unlighted)
- Pet Water Fountain

3 Hurst Athletic Complex

2104 Precinct Line Road // 42.2 Acres

- 4 Adult Softball Fields (Lighted)
- 6 Youth Soccer Fields (Lighted)
- 4 Youth Soccer Fields (Unlighted)
- Playground
- 3 Group Shelters
- 2 Concession/Restroom Buildings

4 Chisholm Park

2200 Norwood Drive // 50 Acres

- Aquatics Center
- 4 Youth Softball Fields (Lighted)
- 2 Playgrounds
- 3 Pavilions
- Pond with Fishing Island
- Picnic Tables
- Jogging/Walking Trail System (1.5 miles)
- Fitness Course
- Group Shelter
- Concession/Restroom Building
- 2 Basketball Courts (Lighted)
- 4 Pet Water Fountains

5 Mayfair Linear Park

1725 Norwood Drive // 8.3 Acres

6 Smith-Barfield Park

640 Pleasantview Drive // 6.9 Acres

- Youth Baseball/Softball Field (Lighted)
- 2 Tennis Courts (Lighted)
- Youth Athletic Practice Field (Unlighted)
- Playground
- Pavilion
- Picnic Tables
- Restrooms
- 2 Pet Water Fountains

7 Mayfair Park

1725 Norwood Drive // 14.4 Acres

- Pavilion
- Playground
- Jogging/Walking Trail System (1/4 mile)
- Youth Athletic Fields (Unlighted)
- Pet Water Fountain

8 Windmill Park

840 W. Cheryl Avenue // 2 Acres

- Historical Marker

9 Valentine Park

610 Bedford Court West // 4 Acres

- Youth Athletic Practice Field (Unlighted)

10 Library Park

901 Precinct Line Road

- Pavillion

11 Hurst Hills Park

575 Billie Ruth Lane // 4 Acres

12 Heritage Village Plaza

841 W. Pipeline Road

- Historical Plaza
- Picnic Table
- 2 Decorative Water Fountains

13 Hurst Community Park

601 Precinct Line Road // 44.9 Acres

- 4 Youth Baseball Fields (Lighted)
- 2 Youth Soccer Fields (Lighted)
- 2 Sand Volleyball Courts (Lighted)
- Pavilion
- 2 Playgrounds
- Multi-Use Trail System (1 mile)
- Picnic Tables
- Wooded Natural Area
- Open Field Play Area
- Concession/Restroom Building
- 2 Group Shelters
- 2 Pet Water Fountains

14 Central Park

700 block of Mary Drive // 17.5 Acres

- Recreation Center
- Aquatics Center
- Tennis Center (10 Lighted Courts)
- 2 Pavilions
- Playground
- Picnic Tables
- 2 Outdoor Basketball Courts (Lighted)
- Pet Water Fountain

15 Vivagene Copeland Park

501 Pecan Drive // 5.2 Acres

- Pavilion
- Playground
- Multi-Use Trail System (1/3 mile)
- Open Field Play Area
- 3 Outdoor Basketball Courts (Lighted)
- Pet Water Fountain

16 Jaycee-Baker Park

500 Belmont Drive // 4.1 Acres

- Playground
- Picnic Tables
- Pavilion
- Youth Athletic Practice Fields (Unlighted)
- Pet Water Fountain

17 Parker Cemetery

1308 Cardinal Lane

18 Billy Creek Park

161 Billy Creek Drive

19 Redbud Park

525 Redbud Drive // 7.2 Acres

- Soccer Field (Unlighted)
- Playground
- Jogging/Walking Trail System (1/3 miles)
- Picnic Tables
- Fitness Course
- Pavilion
- Pet Water Fountain

20 Bellaire Park

500 Pecan Drive // 6.4 Acres

- Playground
- Youth Baseball/Softball Field (Lighted)
- Jogging/Walking Trail System (1/3 mile)
- Pet Water Fountain

21 Wan-Ka-Kani Park

748 Shadylane // 4.1 Acres

- Picnic Tables

22 Highway 10 Linear Park

188 Arwine Drive

- Hurst's undeveloped park land

23 Rickel Park

1001 Bluebonnet Drive // 29 Acres

- 2 Pavilions
- Picnic Tables
- Nature Trails
- Scenic Overlook
- Winding Stream with 2 Bridges
- Jogging/Walking Trail System (1/2 mile)
- Playground
- 2 Pet Water Fountains



City of Hurst
1505 Precinct Line Rd.
Hurst, TX 76054

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