



BE THE INSPIRATION
2018-2019

WINTER Weekly



The Plano Rotary Club www.PlanoRotary.com

FAIR

COUNTY

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

June 13th Sonu Varkey Inspirational Magic

June 20th Brad Stewart, Audiologist ClearLife Hearing Care What's the latest in hearing issues and technology these days

June 27th
Jeff Beckley
Anniversary of the Plano Rotary Club
and planning a Year of Celebration

July 4th NO NOON MEETING (1st Thursday of the month)



June BIRTHDAYS

Milby, Charles Jun 07
Ritchey, Blair Jun 08
Waterbury, Mark Jun 08
Geller, Mark Jun 09
Keith, Bradley Jun 12



Morold get herself inducted this day, but she also volunteered to be

Volume 278, Issue 343, June 13th, 2019



PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE FIRST WATER, much to Sainted Chitor's relief. That's not to say that he doesn't value **Hubert Aaron** (who shot these photos) or any of the other substitute paparazzo!

carrolyn the Petite summoned us to purpose at 12:15, calling upon Blair Ritchey for the Invocation and Kelly Palmer to lead the Pledge. She gave the Greeter Nod to Maria Mott

and invited **SERGEANT NANCY** to start another attendance run!



NANCY recognized Visiting Rotarian Randy Wright (Plano East), here to sponsor



LaNell for membership. **Janis Allman** introduced **Tracy Carmichael**. Then **SERGEANT HUMPHREY** got one last shot at interviewing **Ric Kasmiskie**, who is moving West, Young Man.



Ric's favorite band is pmk FLOYD. There were murmurs of ascent in the room. His TARDIS choice would be Australia/New Zealand, no, Singapore/Malaysia, no, offshore anyway! Something we don't know about him is he was a State Champion Gymnast in High School! He has no tattoos. And he will "miss all of you dearly" when he's gone. And the changes are "bittersweet." A round of applause let him know how we reciprocate the thoughts.

The first announcement came from incoming President **Jeff Beckley**, who noted this to be our 74th birthday as a club. He'll bake us a Happy 74th cake, but we really should do something for next year's 75th! So he'll examine the history of the Club which has made "such a valuable contribution."

We predate the Chamber and are the "precursor" Club to others in Plano. He'll seek out Club Alumni to invite back to celebrate our 75 years.

As a part of his administration policies, he's going to change the way Fine Bucket Monies are distributed. And finally answer that nagging question: "What does the 'Bubba' mean?" Each



month, during his reign, the fine bucket collection will be donated to the charity of choice of some member whose birthday falls within that month. It'll be chosen at random from among the celebrants in attendance at the first meeting of the month.

Carrolpn reminded us to check the Bulletin's back page for an invitation to **Sara Akers'** house for an End of (Rotary) Year party 7 pm on June 15th.

We were also reminded to meet next (last, as you read this) Saturday in the *Williams High School* (north) parking lot at 9 am to take our donations to *Plano Food Pantry*.



Then it was LaNell's hour to shine as Randy re-pinned her, blinded, as he was, by the projector light. It's a wonder he didn't draw blood. LaNell received a standing ovation.

Hayden Padgett introduced speaker County Judge **Chris Hill**. Judge Hill is a 4th generation Collin County resident, so he knows all the skeletons in all the closets.



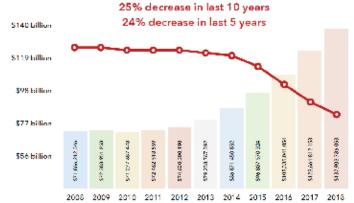
Judge Hill began with a bit of puffery saying that Texas is growing faster than the rest of the country; DFW is growing faster than Texas, Collin County faster than DFW, and Prosper the fastest of all! So it is incumbent upon the Commissioners to **PLAN FOR GROWTH** rather than manage decline as must be the case elsewhere. Collin County is already the 3rd most populous of the DFW counties, but by 2045 it is slated to be **3.5** times the **1 million** (!) it is today. We add 97 people each day, and the pace is accelerating. As evidence thereof, he cited housing permits that were 7,950 in 2017 rising to 8,700 in 2018, over 9% growth rate in a year! And it's increasing fastest in Northern Collin County; the boom as passed on from Plano.

Judge Hill attributes this to job opportunities. Texas, after all, was almost immune to derivative-fueled Great Recession of 'o8. "*Economic opportunity drives growth*," he said, fearless of platitudes. And with all that competition has come rising property values and county revenue!

Appraisal values have spiked 92% in a decade, fueled by new construction, but, ever the fiscal conservatives, Judge Hill and his compatriots have lowered the tax rate in compensation. They have been aiming at revenue neutrality...well budget balance neutrality anyway. With county growth comes demand for more county services, so budgets have had to increase, but that increase has been offset by new revenue from new



construction. As a consequence, the county can afford to decrease the tax rate 24% over the last 5 years.



Collin's portion of the average household's tax bill did increase from \$537 to \$629 from 2013-2016, but by 2018, it had retreated to **\$623**. And he presented an unreadably small print version of all the county services for which the revenue provides...reproduced in its entirety below:

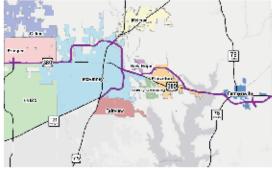
611 Dispatch * Animal Shatter * Arson Investigation * Buil Bonds * Boot and Winor Applications * Cautle Brands & Mar or Registration * Control From 19 Dispass (CODF)
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Community Supply of control Courting (Probation) * Country Country J. 1 * Control Country J. 1 * Cont

Those of us who thought to bring magnifying glasses were suitably impressed with what we get for our money. But wait! There's more!! Judge Hill wowed us with ongoing and future projects, such as:

- Expanding the Jail Facility
- Improving our Justice System
 - o Two new district courts (civil & family)
 - o Increase in magistration
- Expanding the Courthouse Facility
 - Utilizing the 2018 Bond Funds
 - o Prop. 1: \$600 M for freeways
 - Prop. 2: \$140 M for principal arterials
 - o Prop. 3: \$10 M for parks & open spaces

Nathan Barbera asked how a 1 M population has affected the courts. Judge Hill explained that the county is adding specialized to the general jurisdiction courts now.

Changing general to specialized courts requires permission from the State Legislature, so new specialized ones will appear. Also at 24 courtrooms, the Courthouse is now "close to capacity." Fortunately, with foresight, the structure was designed with expansion in mind. So new wings will appear to provide additional adjudication space.



The largest project under discussion is the expansion of Highway 380. TxDOT prefers the purple route in the map above because it passes through undeveloped land, so it will cost less to acquire. McKinney's City Council unanimously opposes that route; it presumably has plans for development that would be compromised by that routing. Collin has proposed the green route to the State, which must, by law, seek local buy-in for projects, but McKinney wants routes thru Prosper.



If the cities change their mind to approve the red route, the county will concur. But, currently, McKinney and Prosper are proposing incompatible projects, so negotiations are ongoing.

Kelly Palmer asked if there are plans for passenger rail in Collin. Judge Hill reminded him that **DART** stops at Plano because cities further north (mentioning no names) refused to tax themselves for it. Kelly said that it seems like mass transport is the solution for the traffic. Judge Hill said that 45K cars per day is the trigger value for a freeway; Highway 380 is currently at 111% of that.

Blair Ritchev asked about 380's timeline and was told that the purple route would take 10 years to complete once begun. But studies of the issue (environmental as well as the impact on communities) will take another 18-24 months! Unless the cities change their positions, Judge Hill fears that the entire process might take 20 years! No consensus yet!!

Exacerbating the debate is the expansion of even existing right of way from 150' to 320'. "Every foot of that must be acquired."



Judge Hill thanked us for inviting him, and Carrolyn the Detite gave him our petite USB drive, led us in the Four-Way Test, and belled us out at 1:01.





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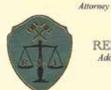
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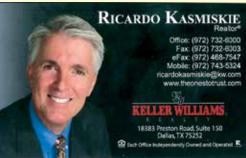
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