



June 2022

The Dallas Digest

The Mayor's Space

Mayor Brian Dalton



"The best time to plant a tree is twenty years ago. The second best time is now."
Chinese proverb

Dallas, of course, has a long history with its trees, in part due to its proclivity for turning large ones into dimensional lumber (a log flume used to run through downtown).

Of late, we have branched out to see trees as decorative, economically advantageous and environmentally friendly. Highlighting our urban forest and greenery, Dallas has been a Tree City USA for the past 14 years and the City plants quite a few each spring. The internet proclaims that pleasurable hormones are released by hugging trees (a California concept?), but beyond that arcane idea, the right trees in the right places look good, benefit our economy and help the environment.

According to the US Forest Service, healthy, mature trees add an average of 10 percent to a property's value. The Arbor Day Foundation says that trees stimulate economic development, attracting new business and tourism making retail areas more alluring to shoppers, apartments rent more quickly and their tenants stay longer.

Of course, trees help the environment, keeping us cooler in the summer (how much fun are hot parking lots?), absorbing about six tons annually of carbon dioxide per acre of trees and producing four tons of oxygen for our good health.

Additionally, as important as mitigating climate change might be (it is), the topic is not frequently being pressed upon me as mayor by local activists. So, by planting and nurturing good-looking trees we are not only making people happy, we are stealthily doing a great thing to moderate our climate crisis – cleaning and cooling hot air (politicians take note).

So, all in all, why not fill our small world with nice trees? I'll loan you my shovel.

Be well.

ADULTS! TEENS! KIDS!



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Through August 31, 2022



Employee Spotlight:

Ken Braun



Ken Braun began volunteering as a member of the Chaplain Corps for Dallas FIRE and RESCUE in 1997. In 2016 he became the lead chaplain when Dave Pederson retired. While chaplaincy work is not for everyone, Ken feels most privileged to be present for folks on what is often considered to be one of the worst days of their lives. Ken volunteers to cut and split wood most Saturdays for the Royal Order of Red Suspenders which provides free firewood for those who can't afford to buy it to heat their homes. The Fall of 2021 saw Ken's last year to run the DHS football concessions stand and grill his last Ultimate Cheeseburger. Ken is the Executive Director for Community Mediation Services for Polk County.