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The Dallas Morning News

Friday, January 1, 2016



2016: THE YEAR AHEAD

Community leaders share their hopes, predictions for the coming months

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MAYOR'S MESSAGE | WYLIE

Top-notch amenities make city stand out

Those of us who live and work in Wylie were not surprised when *Money* magazine named Wylie the 25th best place to live in the country in 2015. Our more than 45,000 citizens have embraced the Wylie difference, and more and more are discovering every day what sets us apart from other cities.

We kicked off 2015 with three major corporate businesses opening new locations in the city — always a good way to start the new year. It is important that we continue to work toward finding retail shopping and dining options for our citizens, as our community continues to grow. Currently, Wylie has 12 new neighborhoods under some phase of construction.

In the early spring, we attended our second Wylie Day at the State Capitol in Austin and met with officials from around the state. It is vital that our legislators know about Wylie and the benefits it brings to not only North Texas, but the entire nation. For example, did you know that one of our local businesses, Savage Precision Fabrication, creates the parts that Lockheed Martin uses to build the



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next generation F-35 fighter jet?

We also had a number of great family-friendly events, including the annual Wylie 500 Pedal Car Race, with 2- to-5-year-olds racing 500 inches down Ballard Avenue; Bluegrass on Ballard, with more than 6,000 in attendance; and Boo On Ballard, with more than 5,000 trick-or-treaters.

We also hosted Texas' first-ever magic festival, The Magic of Wylie, in conjunction with Boo on Ballard. The week included a parlor magic performance in the Brown House, a séance and street magicians. It culminated in a gala featuring seven illusion acts. It was a week of magic and wonder for our citizens of all ages.

Our community-built Pirate Cove Playground turned 10 years old in 2015

and continues to be a wonderful place for our families to enjoy, thanks to the many volunteers who keep the playground in great condition. While other communities' playgrounds have fallen into disrepair and have been removed, ours looks as good as the day it was built.

We ended the year with a record-setting turnout for our seventh annual Wylie Arts Festival, held in our historic downtown. The crowds were shoulder to shoulder as they shopped at more than 120 booths featuring unique, handmade arts and crafts. The annual Christmas parade and tree-lighting ceremony followed the festival, with great floats and huge crowds.

As we reflect on the past year, I encourage all of the citizens of Wylie to stop and consider the outstanding businesses and all the great events we have in our community. I hope you will also consider the top-notch amenities offered in Wylie, like our new hike and bile trail at our municipal complex, how our crime rate has gone down another 5 percent over the past year because of the outstanding work of our police department, how our fire depart-



Photo by STEWART F. HOUSE/special contributor

Liam Manshardt, 4, and his brother Noah, 2, of Wylie posed with their mother, Sabrina, during warmups at the annual Pedal Car Race on May 3.

ment carries the coveted ISO-1 rating, how 30,000 of our 45,000 citizens have their own library card and how Wylie has one of the best recreation centers in North Texas.

I invite you to come see us and experience the Wylie difference for yourself.

Eric Hogue is the mayor of Wylie.

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