



January 2009



Board Members Re-Appointed by City Council

Board Members Jonas Miller & Jason Wirth to Serve Three More Years as EDC Directors



At the January 15, 2009 City Council Meeting, Board Members Jonas Miller & Jason Wirth were each re-appointed to serve another three year term on the Hutto Economic Development Board of Directors. During the January 20, 2009 Hutto EDC Board of Directors Meeting, Miller & Wirth were given the Oath of Office, signaling the start of their new terms. When asked about his reappointment,



Board Member Miller (pictured left) stated, "My family and I moved to Hutto 3 years ago, and our family has been incredibly blessed... I'm humbled to have the privilege to be a part of one of the best economic development teams in the state and look forward to contributing to a better Hutto tomorrow."

February Power Breakfast

February Power Breakfast to take place February 12, 2009

Please join Hutto EDC Staff and other members of the community on Thursday, February 12 at the Holiday Inn Express, located at 323 Ed Schmidt Blvd., starting at 7:30 am. Each month community leaders give brief updates as to what is new for each aspect of the city, followed by a monthly featured speaker. The staff of the Hutto EDC looks forward to seeing you there!

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Did you Know...

Officials Present "State of the City" at January Power Breakfast

City Manager, Ed Broussard Presents the Successes of 2008 and Plans for the Future



The presentation of the "State of the City" was given to more than 50 citizens at the January Power Breakfast, and City Manager, Ed Broussard considered the event a success. One of the key points that was focused on during this presentation was featuring several major projects during Fiscal Year 2007-08, including:

- Adoption of the 2030 Strategic Guide
- Opening of the Hutto Public Library
- Parks and ball field improvements
- Completion of citizensurvey
- New website unveiled
- Hired seven new police officers
- Distributed annual report calendar
- Hired city engineer and construction inspector

City Officials will be giving the presentation to several civic organizations throughout the month of January. For more information regarding this address, please visit the [City of Hutto](#) website.

Form Based Zoning Codes Rapidly Gaining Popularity

By Local Citizen Jim Sackrider

Hutto's proposed "SmartCode" is a well respected brand of the "form-based" zoning codes adopted by over three hundred, seventy cities in forty-one states, including Texas. At an accelerating rate, developers all over the country are choosing this alternative code to build for the residential, retail, commercial, industrial and special use markets in a style that resembles a traditional small town. A glimpse of some of the developments built here in Texas and in other U.S. cities can be found at www.tndtownpaper.com/neighborhoods.htm.

Although developers can continue to provide traditional products for established markets, the SmartCode would provide an effective tool for Hutto to add traditional neighborhoods to the lifestyle choices that it has to offer, helping it compete with other Texas cities that have already adopted a similar code. Instead of the single product residential subdivisions built next to large blocks of apartment buildings and a retail strip center, the form-based Traditional Neighborhood Development builds a variety of single and multifamily residential products, neighborhood office and retail space, schools, churches, parks and playgrounds within a five to ten minute walk of each other. The master plan requires tree-lined streets with other features that are friendly to pedestrians and cyclists.

...that the Hutto EDC has seven Board Members who serve 3-year staggered terms? The Board is appointed by Hutto City Council, and plays an integral part in the decisions made directing the HEDC. For more information on each Board Member, visit our website, www.huttoedc.com.

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Investors and developers are attracted to cities offering form-based codes as they simplify and clarify the development process. This certainty stimulates investment in higher quality infrastructure and buildings with multiple uses, creating a more solid, long-term, self-supporting tax base; while buildings constructed under the current use-based codes typically become obsolete in twenty to thirty years.

While development using a form-based code such as the SmartCode is expensive, these new Traditional Neighborhoods have been successfully built around the country for the past 20 years. Due to its close proximity to Austin, Hutto will continue to grow, and with or without the adoption of the SmartCode, developers can continue to build what they are building today. However, adding the SmartCode would provide the City of Hutto with another tool to keep up with towns like Leander and Kyle who have already adopted a form-based code, as well as, become more competitive with other nearby cities, while constructing neighborhoods with the traditional, small town feeling that the citizens of Hutto have always valued.

Visit www.smartcodecentral.com/index.html for more information about the SmartCode or contact Jim Sackrider at jim_sackrider@block-real-estate.com.

Hutto EDC Commissions Engineering Study on Land Near SH 130

The Hutto EDC recently commissioned local Engineering firm Hejl, Lee & Associates to assist in generating a plan and projected costs for infrastructure development on available land adjacent to SH 130. Cost estimates for provision of water and wastewater is included in the study.



Hutto EDC Starting Accredited Economic Development Organization Process

Accreditation Recognizes Organizations for Excellence in the Field of Economic Development

One of the goals for the 2009 Fiscal Year is to obtain the Prestigious AEDO Accreditation. Staff members started on this extensive process at the beginning of January, and expect it to extend through April 2009.



This process includes a detailed Organization Document Review. Officials from the primary economic development professional organization, the International Economic Development Council (IEDC), will review a detailed list of documents, procedures, and materials used by the Hutto EDC. Once the IEDC officials approve the Document Review, the applying organization hosts a site visit where practices, facilities, and procedures are placed under scrutiny.

"The Hutto community deserves the best from the Hutto EDC. This is an unbiased way for us to receive peer review from outside economic development professionals on the quality of our organization," states Executive Director, Scott Martinez. "It is an effective way to show the community, as well as our business prospects, that the Hutto EDC professional and effective." There are currently less than 5 accredited organizations in the state of Texas and less than 50 in the United States.

Existing Business Program Ready for Kick-Off

Hutto EDC Beginning Process of Implementing E-Synchronist Software

One of the advantages of collaboration with the Austin Chamber of Commerce is access to the E-Synchronist software program. The E-Synchronist program is an internet-based software developed by renowned economic developer, Eric Canada. The software is designed to aid in the development and retention of local businesses. This software has been implemented and utilized successfully throughout the nation. Communities throughout the five county Austin region use the software. The Hutto EDC plans to begin utilizing this software by the end of March 2009.

Hutto Housing Sales Ranked Above Round Rock, Pflugerville, & Georgetown

Austin Board of REALTORS Publishes the November 2008 "Hotness Ratio"

Out of 50 MLS areas designated by the Austin Board of REALTORS (ABOR), Hutto ranked 6th in the area on the "Hotness Ratio" list. This ratio refers to the number of pending home sales in reference to the number of active listings. With a ratio of 22.4% (44 pending sales with 196 active listings), the Hutto area outranked Pflugerville (17.9%), Georgetown East (16.5%), Round Rock West (16.0%), Round Rock East (11.0%), and Georgetown West (10.9%).



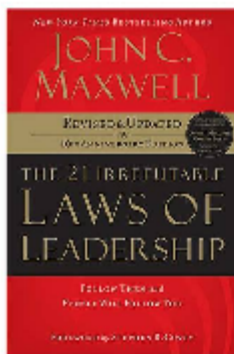
Hutto EDC Participates in Quarterly ACCRA Cost of Living Index Update

Research Specialist, Lori Hines, Leads Effort

The Cost of Living in any given area plays a large role in drawing businesses and residents to the community. In an effort to provide accurate and up-to-date information for prospects, the Hutto EDC participates in this Quarterly pricing of consumer goods and services. Hutto EDC Research Specialist, Lori Hines, explains, "Over 200 Organizations from all over the country work together to collect the same data during the same time frame, covering everything from the cost of a tire rotation, to the cost of housing, to the cost of a pound of bananas." This data is then collected to produce the Cost of Living Index. For an example of how this system operates [click here](#) for a link to our website.

Hutto EDC Staff Participates in Leadership Training

Hutto EDC Staff Members Join in 22 Week Course Facilitated by Hutto Chief of Police, Harold Thomas



On January 7, 2009, two of the Hutto EDC Staff members, along with 25 other participants, started a 22 week course focusing on **John Maxwell's 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership**. Staff members Lori Hines and Seanna Roysden have been enjoying this opportunity to learn what makes a leader, as well as to meet new people. "The Chief has created an inviting and open forum that welcomes discussion from a wide array of participants. I am looking forward to each session," stated Roysden. The class continues through June 2009.

City of Hutto - News Briefs

City Council Adopts Agenda for 2009 Legislative Session



At the December 18, 2008 meeting, the Hutto City Council unanimously approved the resolution outlining the community's legislative agenda for the Texas 81st Legislative Session. The Council prioritized the following seven issues that they believe are of utmost importance to Hutto and should be addressed during this upcoming legislative session.

1. Property Tax Appraisal Caps -

- o The City Council authorizes City representatives to oppose any legislation that would place appraisal caps on property beyond the ten percent (10%) currently mandated by law; any legislation that would place revenue caps on the City; changes to the local sales tax statues that jeopardizes the City's sales tax allocation; and, any legislation that would limit the City Council's existing authority to adopt a tax rate and/budget for the City.

2. **Use of State Right-of-Way -**
 - Support legislation that requires electric providers use State ROW for transmission line projects when the ROW is available.
3. **Transportation Funding -** Support a resolution adopted by the Texas Municipal League (TML) delegation seeking to inform the legislature that Texas cities are in dire need of additional transportation infrastructure funding to construct projects, maintain current roadways and plan for future growth.
4. **Strengthen Law Enforcement -**
 - Support legislation that toughens laws and increases law enforcement's ability to impose laws related to risk abduction, violence against women act compliance, strangulation as a felony, mandatory probation fees, lease termination, LEP in the courts, support for the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault, and other items of concern.
5. **Texas Department of Transportation & Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century Funding -**
 - Support legislation providing funding related to the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA21), ensuring priority funding when funds become available.
6. **Texas Recreation and Parks Funding -**
 - Support legislation that provides increased funding for the Texas Recreation and Parks Account and them State Parks System.
7. **Railroad Relocation Funding -**
 - The City requests increased funding of the Railroad Relocation Fund approved by Texas voters in 2005.

Community Demographic Information

4A Economic Development Sales Tax Allocation

Fiscal Year	January	Total
1997/98	\$ 2,011.07	\$40,417.02
1998/99	\$ 1,361.54	\$32,045.20
1999/00	\$ 1,725.50	\$35,093.61
2000/01	\$ 2,558.70	\$50,940.93
2001/02	\$ 2,988.40	\$58,299.83
2002/03	\$ 4,718.02	\$73,572.84
2003/04	\$ 6,506.99	\$98,841.25
2004/05	\$11,334.17	\$216,990.28
2005/06	\$22,115.05	\$336,629.05
2006/07	\$25,860.50	\$376,036.41
2007/08	\$32,124.82	\$481,309.64
2008/09	\$34,358.28	\$173,091.28

Single Family Building Permit Requests by Month

Month	2005	2006	2007	2008
<i>January</i>	63	93	71	64
<i>February</i>	51	70	49	49
<i>March</i>	56	101	84	47
<i>April</i>	67	91	75	46
<i>May</i>	53	66	37	29
<i>June</i>	58	68	44	22
<i>July</i>	61	56	34	32
<i>August</i>	78	70	25	41
<i>September</i>	67	66	24	28
<i>October</i>	65	58	51	5
<i>November</i>	49	37	60	9
<i>December</i>	46	46	7	12

Hutto Police Department Monthly Crime Statistics

Part I Crimes	Jan-07	Jan-08	Difference
<i>1. Murder</i>	0	0	0
<i>2. Rape</i>	0	0	0
<i>3. Assault</i>	2	4	2
<i>4. Robbery</i>	0	0	0
<i>5. Burglary</i>	1	0	-1
<i>6. Larceny</i>	5	11	6
<i>7. Auto Theft</i>	0	0	0
<i>8. Arson</i>	0	0	0
<i>Cumulative</i>	8	15	7

Part II Crimes	Jan. - Oct 2007	Jan. - Oct 2008	Difference
<i>Cumulative</i>	25	31	6

December 2008 Unemployment Rates

Area	Rate
<i>Austin</i>	3.9%
<i>Williamson County</i>	4.1%
<i>Texas</i>	6.0%
<i>National</i>	7.2%

Thank you for taking the time to view our newsletter. If you have any questions about what you have read today, please do not hesitate to ask. Have a safe and happy holiday week.

Sincerely,

Scott Martinez, CEcD
Hutto Economic Development Corporation

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