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Star-Telegram

FitFuture KidsFest is Saturday in Euless

Posted Thursday, Sep. 15, 2011

BY TERRY EVANS

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EULESS – FitFuture KidsFest, a festival focused on fun ways to get kids to eat healthier and stay active, will be Saturday in Euless.

The free festival will also have mixed martial arts demonstrations, gymnastics performances, jazzercise and cooking demonstrations, said Keisha Leatherman, a Tarrant County Public Health spokeswoman.

KidsFest isn't a health fair, Leatherman said.

"There are no screenings," she said. "It's an opportunity for people to have fun and learn about fun ways to eat healthy and stay active. Our primary focus is physical wellness. But it can include mental wellness with yoga and tai chi and social wellness with the Boy Scouts of America and the Christian Martial Arts Academy."

Leatherman said the emphasis will be on preventing childhood obesity, type II diabetes and heart disease, so parents should attend also.

"If we can incorporate healthy food choices and regular physical activity early on and include the parents as well, we can help prevent future chronic diseases," she said.

About 30 agencies are expected to have booths promoting their services with activities related to nutrition and physical activity, Leatherman said.

Terry Evans, 817-390-7620

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Star-Telegram

Long-running DFW Airport fight may be cooling

Posted Thursday, Sep. 15, 2011

There are signs of movement in the decades-old confrontation over tax revenue at DFW Airport, a controversy that at times has brought open fighting between Dallas and Fort Worth and the airport's neighbor cities.

It's far from certain that there will be an agreement allowing Dallas and Fort Worth to share tax income from airport property in Grapevine, the city that has fought hardest against such an arrangement.

But Bill Tate, Grapevine's long-serving mayor, says he's encouraged by recent developments.

"Things are on the table that have never been there before," Tate told me. "We've gone farther than we ever have."

From 1965 until DFW opened in 1974, Dallas and Fort Worth spent \$700 million buying 18,000 acres for the airport. But none of that land was in Dallas or Fort Worth.

Grapevine, Euless, Irving and Coppell quickly annexed every airport acre they could get. Grapevine took in almost 8,000 acres, on which all of the DFW terminals now sit. Irving got almost 6,000 acres; Euless more than 3,000; and Coppell 266.

That was OK with Dallas and Fort Worth leaders at the time. They signed an airport agreement in 1968 saying, "The immense benefit to the Cities of Dallas and Fort Worth as owners of the facility will be overshadowed only by the immense benefit derived by those public bodies and political subdivisions in which the Airport will be situated."

Twenty-six years later, they changed their minds. What kind of sense does it make, they reasoned, for Dallas and Fort Worth to spend all this money and go to all this effort and never reap any tax revenue payback?

Airport officials, working on behalf of Dallas and Fort Worth, came up with a proposal: All four cities could keep the same amount of tax revenue they were getting but would share revenue from future airport development on their land. Dallas would get a third, Fort Worth a third and the "host city" a third.

Euless and Irving took that deal in 1998. Two years later, the airport opened a \$150 million rental car center off International Parkway in Euless. It has generated around \$9 million a year to be split with Dallas and Fort Worth.

Grapevine and Coppell didn't bite. Grapevine was bringing in around \$11 million in airport-related tax revenue every year. And with around 1,500 acres of developable airport land within its boundaries, Grapevine had more riding on the outcome of any agreement.

Tate was willing to support an agreement, but he wanted Grapevine to get half of all future increases in tax revenue, not just a third.

The issue went to the Legislature in 2001, with the airport hiring lobbyists to push a bill forcing an agreement on its terms and Grapevine hiring lobbyists to fight that move.

Legislation engineered by then-acting Lt. Gov. Bill Ratliff forced a compromise but didn't end the fighting. Grapevine gave up a share of future tax revenue from airport property south of Texas 114 but got veto power over developments north of that freeway, near Grapevine Mills mall.

John Terrell, DFW's vice president of commercial development, briefed the Fort Worth City Council on Tuesday about plans to build shopping areas, restaurants, hotels and other commercial properties on more than 5,200 acres of airport land.

Terrell said by 2038 the developments could yield \$261 million in lease revenue for the airport and tax income of \$40 million a year to Fort Worth and \$65 million to Dallas. The "host cities" could get more than \$411 million a year by that time.

But he gave little hint of any thaw in negotiations about tax-sharing.

Tate says the thaw is real – or at least enough to give him hope of what he calls "a business decision that is good for all sides."

He wouldn't go into details other than to say, "There's been some change in the airport's strategy. They're acting more like a partner."

Mike Norman is editorial director of the Star-Telegram / Arlington and Northeast Tarrant County.

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DATE DISTRIBUTED 9/27/11 DATE OF ARTICLE 9/20/11 NEWSPAPER PRWEB

ServiceMaster Advanced Restorations of Euless, Texas, Celebrates Groundbreaking For New Office/Warehouse Complex

On Thursday, September 1, 2011, ServiceMaster Advanced Restorations of Euless, Texas, broke ground for a new 20,000 square foot facility. The company has continued to grow over its first 10 years of operation and this building expansion helps it as it prepares for the next 10 years.

Euless, TX (PRWEB) September 20, 2011 -- On Thursday, September 1, 2011, ServiceMaster Advanced Restorations located in Euless, Texas, had a groundbreaking ceremony for their new corporate headquarters with the support of the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce, local dignitaries, builder Keith Alexander of KBA Construction, and Jack Wharton and Chris Hamilton of PlainsCapital Bank. Owners Amy and Dan Fry, and Max Kuntz, are pleased to announce that the new facility should be completed during the first quarter of 2012. ServiceMaster Advanced Restorations initially opened their business on September 11, 2001. The company has continued to grow to the point that a new facility became imperative. This locally owned and operated company is a part of the Disaster Restoration division of ServiceMaster Clean, a successful international company that has become well-known as a leader and First Responder addressing various local and national disasters. ServiceMaster Clean was responsible for the clean-up of the Pentagon after the tragedy in Washington, DC on September 11, 2001. ServiceMaster Clean is also the parent company to various brands including Terminix, Tru-Green Chemlawn, Furniture Medic, Merry Maids, Amerispec, American Homeshield, and more. ServiceMaster Advanced Restorations has 25 full time employees and serves north Texas with responsibility primarily for Tarrant and Johnson counties. They have received a RAM (Regional Area Manager) designation from ServiceMaster Clean. With this designation, ServiceMaster Advanced Restorations is responsible for coordinating local and national ServiceMaster First Responder teams in the event that a large scale disaster would affect the northern Texas area. Their mitigation services have been provided in other regions of the country in support of other ServiceMaster franchisees over the years during hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, fires, and other disasters. They also own a Furniture Medic franchise. This division will also operate out of the new location in Euless, Texas. The new facility is being built at 1608 W. Euless Blvd. and will feature 15,000 square feet of warehouse space and 5,000 square feet of office/business space. This building will include a large state of the art training facility which will help the franchise to continue to provide training to insurance professionals including agents, adjusters and insurance company staff. Last year over 900 persons attended this continuing education program. Moving from its current location in the Texas Star complex will enable ServiceMaster Advanced Restorations to further expand and continue its excellent service to insurance companies and property owners in the entire DFW area. "Though we have participated in numerous disaster events over the years throughout the country, our main focus is assisting our local market in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. When anyone in this area has a water, fire and or smoke damage event we are capable and ready to help day or night," states Amy Fry. ServiceMaster Advanced Restorations continues to build on its strong history of excellent residential services and is aggressively increasing its work in the commercial market. Helping to establish and maintain this company's preferred vendor status with all the top insurance carriers are Terry Sutton and Kristy Richardson, one of the best marketing staffs in the industry. ServiceMaster Advanced Restorations' Director of Business Development, Terry Sutton, adds, "As a former adjuster who is constantly moving in both residential and commercial restoration circles in north Texas, I know the industry. I believe in what we do and how we do it. It is a joy to market a company as successful, ethically sound and customer oriented as our company, ServiceMaster Advanced Restorations."