



Historic Delano News

Special Edition - August 2013

Promoting Delano's past, present & future

Copyright 2013 by Historic Delano, Inc. • www.historicdelano.com/news • Vol. 6 issue 6



Drilling for Oil in Delano

*This **Special Edition** is dedicated to a proposal being considered by the City to allow drilling for oil on the west bank of the river. In a nutshell:*

About 15 months ago a local oilman brought a lease request to the City. As required, the City put out a Request for Proposal (RFP) and got 2 proposals back. This one was selected.

The proposal is now working it's way through the District Advisory Board & the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission which will both provide an opportunity for citizens to be heard. There will be a final opportunity at the City Council in Sept.

This project does not fit with the intention of the **Delano Neighborhood Revitalization Plan** and could potentially have a very long-term negative impact on development efforts.

You may learn more about this issue on the web at DelanoWichita.com where you can find maps & drawings of the site, pump-house & buildings.

There is a group coming together on Facebook called [Not in My Wichita - Community Coalition Against Downtown Drilling](#) which you can follow. They have an online petition against the project: <http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/notinmywichita/>

Page 2 of this newsletter has a breakdown of the real and potential impacts of this project. Please review the list, pick one (or several) that you feel strongly about and write to your Councilmember.

Please speak out and be heard - Jim & Nancy

Calendar

Monday, August 5th
District Advisory Board 6
6:30 pm
Evergreen Recreation Center
2700 N. Woodland

Thursday, August 8th
**Metropolitan Area
Planning Commission**
Public Hearing - 1:30 p.m.
City Hall
455 N. Main - 10th Floor

Tuesday, August 13th
Historic Delano Meeting
6:00 p.m.
Central Plains Novelty
905 W. Douglas
Time to plan the Ghost Tour!

Contact us

Jim 706-6283
Nancy 640-2453
News & Events

jim@historicdelano.com
nancy@historicdelano.com
news@historicdelano.com

Drilling for Oil in Delano



Real and Potential Impacts



- **Location** / middle of downtown, right on/under the river, “Downtown is Everybody’s Neighborhood”, in the middle of proposed new apartments, the new library and the Delano Bike Trail
- **Aesthetic** / a walled-off industrial compound in the middle of planned new development, Upper floors of the apartments, the Hyatt and the Drury-Broadview will be able to see into the site, will the landscaping be maintained and replaced as necessary?
- **Crime** / the 8’ masonry wall will be a magnet for more graffiti / tagging
- **Land Use** / the **Delano Plan** calls for a bike / walk path and a park (or public square) on that site, the best use for the site is as a connection point between **Exploration Place**, the apartments, the bike path, the new library and connect to downtown Delano
- **Planning** / how does this fit in with the **Delano Neighborhood Revitalization Plan** (adopted 2001), intention should be to reduce industrial use there - how does this fit in with the **Urban Village**?
- **Potential Oil Field** / Phil Ruffin, Key Construction and others might also want to drill
- **Traffic** / there is no turn-around on the site - tankers will have to come in one side and out the other, what is the truck route? tanker trucks around the clock tower where city busses will not go? what is the cost of upgrading Sycamore and McLean and of the wear and tear on roads?
- **Zoning** / this is an example of why we need the Urban Village area to be included in the overlay
- **Historical & Tourism** / Chisholm Trail, Delano Park, Bike Path all converge at that point
- **Events** / kills plans for a public plaza or park to be used for the Farmers Market and other events, the site would offer an alternative to the Douglas Streetscape as a venue for events
- **Economic** / would impede continued revitalization efforts, noise and smell could hurt business
- **Energy** / just because there is oil doesn't mean it needs extracted, we should become greener
- **Environmental** / there is a potential for oil spills and explosions - what safeguards will be in place? does this company have the financial resources or sufficient insurance to clean up a disaster? There are a lot of water wells in Delano and residents are concerned about contamination
- **Geological** / hydraulic fracturing has been connected to an increased frequency of earthquakes, many of the older buildings in Delano were damaged by the Oklahoma earthquakes in 2011
- **Pollution** / potential (if rare) water contamination and sound pollution? where does the waste go? what effect on air quality - many restaurants and bars close by have open-air patios
- **Climate Change** / it makes a statement that the City is prioritizing money over the environment (let's ask Greensburg what they think)
- **Risks vs. Benefits** / great uncertainty, too many risks (even if unlikely), too few benefits