

## Colleyville Mayor for a Day

By Coleman Elam (age 11)

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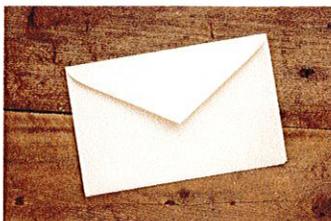


I am thankful that I get to grow up in the amazing city of Colleyville. Our community is one of the best places to live in the DFW metroplex. The caring and involved people are what makes Colleyville such a great place to live. I love our friendly neighbors, our library, city workers, parks, community helpers and our responsible citizens. I believe you should pick me to be the Colleyville Mayor for the day, because I am responsible, innovative, organized, smart and hard working. I will propose some bright ideas to make Colleyville a better place.

If I was Mayor for the day I would first propose continuing to add more sidewalks, walking trails and bike trails, so every citizen and student that walks or rides their bike or scooter can have a safe place to ride. Each city has a walkability score and I believe by applying for grant money through the State of Texas we could add more sidewalks to our city and increase Colleyville's walkability score. Adding sidewalks would also be good for our environment and make our city less car dependent. It also would increase the desirability of living in our community. Having more bike and walking trails will help our community members get outside and talk to each other more, enjoy some exercise and stay healthy.



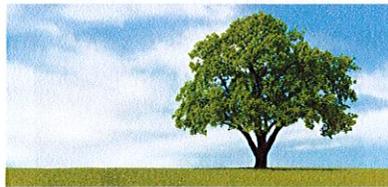
I also would like to honor senior citizens with a Honor our Seniors Day in the city of Colleyville by organizing a team of community volunteers that could visit them and offer to help with yard projects or other needs. When we honor those who are older than us we can gain insights from their life experiences and also make them feel appreciated. Our schools could be involved and encouraged to write letters to a senior citizen in their neighborhood or street.



Our natural resources are limited and we are all responsible to be good stewards of our environment. So another idea I have is to help with our water conservation. My family and I have noticed that sometimes even when it's raining many homes have their sprinkler systems running. The city could sponsor a program that would test sprinkler systems to make sure they are working right and also offer a free rain sensor to homeowners so that the sprinklers won't waste water during a rainy period.



I also believe we need more trees because they provide lots of shade and clean air. Colleyville has lots of new homes built every year, but when each one is built they tear down lots of older trees to make room for the new home. I suggest that each time a builder or homeowner gets permission to build they are required to replace two trees for every tree that is taken down. Or, we could create a city tree fund that they owner would pay in to for the cost of replacing the trees.



Colleyville is already very nice, but more flowers and plants to decorate would be pleasant, as long as they are eco-friendly. My parents listen to Neil Sperry and he is very popular. It would be great to host an event where he was the speaker and talk about ways to keep our yards and also the city landscaping natural and improve the way it looks.

It would be my honor to be chosen for Colleyville mayor of the day. Even if I'm not chosen I hope you will still consider my ideas to make this city a better place.