

LEWISVILLE HISTORY TIMELINE

1841 – The Republic of Texas gives a grant to the Texas Emigration and Land Company to bring 600 families to what is now Denton County. Each family was to receive 640 acres of land, with bachelors receiving 320 acres.

1844 – The Hallford and King families were the first to settle in the area of modern-day Lewisville, naming it the Holford Prairie Settlement.

1846 – Denton County forms.

1846 – The first church is built in Lewisville. Called Chinns Church, it also served as the county's first Masonic Lodge.

1855 – Basdeal Lewis buys the Hallford land and lays out a town that he names for himself. The first Lewisville Post Office is established.

1857 – On Jan. 23, the Grand Lodge of Texas issues a charter for Denton Masonic Lodge #201, which then bought five acres of land at the current location of Old Hall Cemetery for a two-story lodge, church and school.

1862 – Three men (Rawlins, Kealy and Herod) build a gristmill on the current site of the Sonic restaurant.

1867 – T. M. Clayton and George Craft build the first cotton gin in Denton County.

1875 – The Dallas & Wichita Railroad reaches its northernmost point, about one mile south of Lewisville.

1877 – The first public school in Lewisville, Lewisville School Community No. 14, is chartered. Five days later, Lewisville Colored School Community No. 50 is chartered.

1881 – The Wichita Railroad extends to about two miles east of the settlement, causing a gradual shifting of the community to the area now known as Old Town.

1883 – Lewisville's population reaches 300 people.

1885 – The building currently housing the Greater Lewisville Community Theater is

constructed on Main Street. This is the city's oldest standing structure.

1886 – A livery stable and feed mill opens on Main Street. Lewisville Feed Mill continues to operate today, the city's longest continuously operating business.

1891 – Overton Littleton Hamilton starts the city's first newspaper, the *Lewisville Enterprise*.

1891 – Bonds are issued, and construction begins on the first public school in Lewisville.

1895 – Fire destroys the north side of Main Street, from west to east. After the fire, a group of businessmen forms the Lewisville Water Company with a well, standpipe tower and running water to serve Main Street.

1897 – Lewisville High School opens.

1900 – Lewisville's population is about 500 people. The first electrical line is installed.

1909 – The first bank robbery in Denton County is staged at First National Bank of Lewisville when a group of robbers uses dynamite to open safes and steal about \$6,500. They fled on a railroad handcar, but two were caught shortly thereafter.

1912 – Fire breaks out in a hotel on the north side of Main Street and eventually spreads to six other buildings. One man dies when he runs back inside the hotel for his wallet.

1913 – The first car is brought to Lewisville, purchased by a local doctor.

1918 – Fire again strikes the north side of Main Street, starting at the First National Bank building and moving east to west along Main Street through six brick buildings and several wooden structures. This fire provided the impetus for incorporation.

1924 – Construction begins on Garza Dam; Lake Dallas is finished three years later, providing a fresh water source for Dallas.

1925 – Lewisville's population is 815 people. Residents vote, 109-92, on January 15 to

incorporate and the Lewisville Town Council holds its first official meeting on March 16, presided over by Mayor Martin D. Fagg, owner of Fagg's Dry Goods.

1925 – The new Town Council adopts its first ordinance on March 16, regulating medicine shows and establishing fees.

1927 – The city completes construction of its first public building, the Well House, at the corner of Church Street and Poydras Street.

1927 – The city hires its first police officer and first firefighter, creating the positions of Night Watchman and Fire Marshal.

1927 – J.L. Huffines, a Denton car dealer, opens the first automobile dealership in Lewisville. Huffines Motor Company operated at the corner of Main and Mill streets in a building that still stands.

1929 – Newspaper publisher Jack Lewis elected as mayor.

1930 – Listed separately in a U.S. Census for the first time, Lewisville has a population of 853 people.

1930 – Lake Dallas freezes over with a sheet of ice covering the entire lake surface and measuring three inches thick on the south end near the dam. One lake visitor drives a Studebaker onto the ice, losing the vehicle when it broke through and sank.

1931 – Hotel manager William H. Prague elected as mayor.

1931 – Construction begins on the Denton-Dallas Highway, later named U.S. Highway 77. The city's first known traffic fatality is reported that year on the new highway.

1932 – Arthur Hayes appointed as mayor; elected to the office in 1933.

1934 – Members of the Barrow Gang (minus its famous leaders, Bonnie & Clyde, who had visited town earlier in the year) rob the First National Bank of Lewisville.

1940 – Lewisville's population is 873 people.

1941 – M.H. "Horace" Milliken elected as mayor.

1942 – The city's first traffic signal is installed, at the corner of Main Street and Federal Highway 77 (Mill Street). The signal is operated between the hours of 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. by an employee of Huffines Motor Company.

1946 – A man robs Lewisville State Bank on Mill Street and flees on foot past Lewisville High School, where he is pursued by members of the Farmers football team. He is captured minutes later, and the stolen money is recovered. The Farmers won the district title that year with a 10-2 record.

1948 – Construction begins on Lewisville Dam.

1949 – Conrad E. Durve elected as mayor.

1950 – Lewisville's population is 1,516 people.

1951 – Main Street and Church Street are paved for the first time. Several other downtown streets quickly followed.

1953 – F.C. Connor elected as mayor.

1954 – Lewisville Dam is completed, expanding the Garza-Little Elm Reservoir into Lewisville Lake, covering 29,592 acres of surface area and reaching a maximum depth of 67 feet.

1955 – Congress passes a bill authored by Rep. Frank Ikard that officially assigns the name "Lewisville Dam," although the Corps of Engineers does not change the name of the lake until 1971.

1956 – Lewisville City Hall and a Post Office (both since removed) are built on the corner of Charles and Church streets.

1957 – T.W. Beasley elected as mayor.

1958 – F.C. Connor elected as mayor.

1960 – Lewisville's population is 3,956 people.

1961 – The Lewisville United Council of Church Women begins raising money to open a public library. The first library opens in the basement of the United Presbyterian Church.

1962 – An episode of the “Route 66” television show is filmed in Lewisville, which was renamed “Kilkenny” for the program. The episode aired in April on CBS.

1963 – Voters opt to become a Home Rule City by a vote of 225-26.

1963 – Bill R. Weaver elected as mayor.

1963 – Lewisville becomes one of the first cities in Texas to integrate its school system, although black high school students still were bused to an “all-Negro” school in Denton until 1969.

1967 – Construction begins on a hospital at the corner of Main Street and Interstate 35, currently operating as Lewisville Medical Center.

1969 – Sam Houston elected as mayor.

1969 – About 120,000 people come to Lewisville to attend the Texas International Pop Festival, a three-day event featuring such stars as Janis Joplin, B.B. King and Led Zeppelin.

1970 – Lewisville’s population is 9,264 people.

1971 – The city builds its first stand-alone public library, located on Church Street near the site of the current Lewisville City Hall.

1971 – U.S. Corps of Engineers officially changes the name of Garza-Little Elm Reservoir to “Lewisville Lake,” 16 years after Congress passed a 1955 bill authored by Rep. Frank Ikard that named the Lewisville Dam.

1972 – The Valley View area is annexed into Lewisville, adding hundreds of acres of land and hundreds of new residents.

1973 – David Dennison elected as mayor.

1973 – Construction begins on the city’s water and wastewater treatment plants.

1974 – Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport opens.

1975 – The Lewisville Quintuplets, four boys and a girl, are born to Jerry and Debbie Davis on July 18, the first recorded quintuplet birth in Texas.

1976 – Phyllis Adams is hired as Lewisville’s first female police officer.

1976 – Six years after the U.S. Corps of Engineers officially changed the name of Garza-Little Elm Reservoir to “Lewisville Lake,” and 22 years after Congress passed a 1955 bill authored by Rep. Frank Ikard, signs finally are erected proclaiming “Lewisville Lake.”

1977 – Ralph Johnson elected as mayor.

1979 – Clarence R. Myers elected as mayor.

1980 – Lewisville’s population is 24,273 people.

1981 – Troy White elected as mayor.

1983 – Wayne Ferguson elected as mayor.

1985 – Ann Pomykal elected as mayor.

1987 – Donny Daniel elected as mayor.

1989 – Lewisville City Hall (now the Municipal Annex) and the new Lewisville Public Library open at 1197 W. Main Street.

1989 – Vista Ridge Mall opens.

1990 – Lewisville’s population is 46,521 people.

1991 – B.C. Groves elected as mayor.

1993 – Bobbie J. Mitchell elected as mayor.

1993 – Lewisville High School wins its first state football championship by beating Aldine MacArthur in the finals, 43-37.

1996 – Lewisville High School wins its second state football championship by beating Converse Judson, 58-24, in the finals.

1996 – The Bright Ranch area east of the city is annexed into Lewisville.

1996 – The Castle Hills development is annexed into the city’s Extra-Territorial Jurisdiction.

2000 – Lewisville’s population is 77,737 people.

2000 – Clarence R. Myers appointed as mayor.

2000 – Gene Carey elected as mayor.

2002 – Voters approve a quarter-cent sales tax to fund park development and library expansion.

2003 – Lewisville City Hall opens in Old Town, at 151 W. Church Street.

2006 – Lewisville’s population is about 90,000 people.

History of Lewisville

Lewisville was formally incorporated 75 years ago after the January 15, 1925 election, but the settlement as a community actually began about 80 years earlier.

In the 1840s, the Republic of Texas gave a grant to the Texas Emigration and Land Company to bring 600 families to what is now Denton County. Each family was to receive 640 acres of land, bachelors receiving 320 acres. By 1846, the necessary families had arrived, and Denton County was formed. The first settlers to the Lewisville area were the families of John and Augustus King, who migrated to the area in 1844. Following their lead, John and James Holford brought several families from Platt, Missouri and settled on the western part of the King land.

Many of the original “new” buildings were located very near the railroad (later the MKT and now the Union Pacific), but flooding on the Elm Fork of the Trinity River caused those establishments to be moved uphill and west to the area of Mill and Main Streets. A grist mill, constructed near the location of today's Sonic Drive In, firmly anchored the settlement in the new location. By the time of the incorporation election in 1925, the Lewisville community had grown to a population of about 850 residents and was served by five cotton gins and two saloons.

The January 1925 incorporation election marked the beginning of the municipality as we now know it, with a vote of 109-92. County Judge Jackson certified the election of the town's mayor and aldermen March 10, and the first official town meeting was held March 16, 1925. The first ordinances regulated medicine shows and set speed limits for automobiles at 18 mph. The taxable value of property in the newly incorporated town was \$779,086.

The population of Lewisville remained stable until the 1940s, building to a total of 1,500 people in 1950. By 1960, the Corps of Engineers had built the Lewisville Lake Dam and U.S. 77 (now IH-35E) was moved west to replace Mill Street as the primary north-south road running between Dallas and Denton. Lewisville's 1960 population was almost 4,000, and during the late 1960s, Hunt Properties bought and had annexed into Lewisville more than 2,500 acres known as the Lewisville Valley Addition.

The 1970 population had grown to about 9,200 people, but the big boom was just beginning. Home builders discovered a Lewisville eager for growth. Entire neighborhoods were built seemingly overnight, and even with a recession during the last half of the 1970s, Lewisville's population had blossomed to almost 25,000 by 1980.

The decade of the '80s saw continued residential development, but job growth also began to take off, as Lewisville was identified as an employment center. The 1990 population hit 46,500 people, and at the beginning of the 21st century, Lewisville is now home to about 90,000 people and 3,600 businesses.