

Dedication of Gene Carey Animal Shelter and Adoption Center

How does a city pay tribute to an individual who gave unselfishly to that city for many years? To name a facility after that person shows heartfelt respect and appreciation in memorializing such a citizen. To name a city facility that has become the role model for other cities to learn from and emulate, places the name of the memorialized in the minds of people throughout the area. Today we come to dedicate the Gene Carey Animal Shelter and Adoption Center in honor of Mr. Carey's devoted and untiring work for our city. Gene Carey served as Lewisville's mayor for four terms, from 2000 to 2009, the longest tenure of any mayor since the city's incorporation in 1925. He served as Lewisville's twenty-first mayor after serving on the Park Board and being elected to the City Council in 1993. He was known to be an animal lover and said one of his proudest successes as mayor was promoting construction of a new animal shelter, which opened in 2012 after Carey left office. This facility offers tours to help inform others on design, details of a thriving volunteer effort, and shelter operation. Placing Mr. Carey's name on this successful venture compliments both. Showing the respect of all the citizenry of Lewisville, the idea for naming the shelter for Carey came from a high school senior, Macy Kunke. Macy's father, James, serves the city as its community relations and tourism director. The family moved to Lewisville when Macy was three years old. She has known Mr. Carey most of her life, and was fond of seeking him out at city functions. After Carey's death, she spoke to her dad about naming something after Carey. When Macy learned only the City Council could make such a decision, she proposed her idea to a council member, and it was decided unanimously to rename the animal shelter after Carey. Its location near the Dog Park is proving to be a fortuitous placement, as are the "Meet and Greet" areas where families with pets can come together to consider a new family member. Adoptions have more than tripled as state-of-the-art facilities result in an improved work place for employees and a place that entices folks to visit and possibly adopt a new pet. Likewise, a 40% increase in animals going to rescue groups has occurred. Innovative design is helping create an adoption center, not just a shelter. Carey, a dog owner all his days, took one to college with him, and adopted one from the facility we dedicate today as the **Gene Carey Animal Shelter and Adoption Center**.