

# Tyler 21 Forum Eyes Future

By JACQUE HILBURN  
Staff Writer

Schedule adjustments for the Tyler 21 community forum are planned to accommodate those who want to attend the memorial service of slain Smith County Precinct 4 Constable Dale Geddie, who died Wednesday.

Specific hours of the gathering remain 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., but officials are incorporating flexibility into the afternoon portion to assist early departing guests.

The constable's memorial service is planned for 2 p.m. at Green Acres Baptist Church.

"We still want people to come out

and participate," said Laura Krantz, city communications director. "When something like this happens, we are sensitive to it. Our thoughts and prayers are with Constable Geddie's family and friends — he will be in our thoughts as we gather Saturday."

Flags remain lowered in front of City Hall.

The morning session is expected to kick off with a snapshot view of Tyler today and the results of a citizen survey.

Guests will later be divided into groups before lunch to identify things to preserve and change, then reconvene after the meal to share their findings.

"We will be providing updates to the

□ Large Crowd Expected To Attend Memorial Service For Dale Geddie

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community about what was discussed," Ms. Krantz said. "The information will be made available through the Web site and we will make it available at the open houses."

The community retreat will be held at the Robert R. Muntz Library on The University of Texas at Tyler campus, 3900 University Blvd.

Food, child care and door prizes.

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which include a \$1,000 gift certificate, an I-Pod, digital camera and big screen television, will be available.

Mayor Joey Seeber said Saturday's forum was planned to help citizens participate in the building of the city's comprehensive plan.

City leaders have launched an unprecedented effort to encourage participation, offering child care, transportation, food and security.

"We've covered just about every base we possibly can," said Deputy City Manager Mark McDaniel.

The primary purpose behind the city's new \$615,000 planning effort is to guide orderly growth, provide predictability for development and avoid unnecessary spending, city leaders said.

Officials predict the city's new comprehensive plan will take between 18 and 24 months to build, including implementation of a new set of zoning laws.

Key areas highlighted in the plan include traffic congestion; north Tyler revitalization; downtown development; historic preservation; parks, open space and lakes; housing, neighborhoods and quality of life; and public facilities and infrastructure.

For those unable to attend Saturday's forum, opinion and input are being accepted through a new Web site, [www.tyler21.org](http://www.tyler21.org).

The community forum is not

the end of the efforts to glean input from citizens. A series of neighborhood open houses are planned at these times and locations:

**June 19, 5-8 p.m.**

□ Glass Recreation Center, 509 W. 32nd St.

□ Tyler Junior College, Jean Browne Theater, 1400 E. Fifth St.

□ Tyler Junior College West Campus, large conference room, 1530 SSW Loop 323

**June 20, 5-8 p.m.**

□ Hubbard Middle School, 1300 Hubbard Drive

□ Tyler Area Builders Association, 1504-A W. Grande Blvd.

Display sites and comment sheets will be in place June 21-28 at the Tyler Public Library.

Input from all of these gatherings will be examined by the steering committee, organized and then presented to the Tyler City Council in July in the form of "plan goals."

The council will be asked to consider and then adopt these goals, allowing the city to move forward in forming a game plan to address the various issues.

Officials described the planning efforts as an investment in the city's future, and one preceded by a private study indicating that Tyler now has more than 101,000 inhabitants.

Tyler's population has been growing by 4 percent a year since 2000, statistics show.

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