

OAK LEAF NEWS

Fall/Winter 2010

301 LOCUST DRIVE * 972-617-2660 * 972-617-7108 FAX * www.oakleaftexas.org



MAYOR'S MEMO

Fall's cool weather days have arrived, and many of our citizens are getting outside and enjoying outdoor activities. It is also a good time to spruce up flowerbeds and other areas around the house and reunite with family and friends.

Through much deliberation, City Council has decided to reinstate Spring/Fall Clean Up Days starting in the spring of 2011. Discussions are also underway between the city and DCI Sanitation to identify possible spring/fall dates. As soon as they have been reserved, City Staff will generate a series of communications providing the pertinent details, so you can plan accordingly. For those citizens new to our city, the clean-up days will include a wood chipper, an open-top roll-off container, as well as a trash compactor truck. There will be no charge for accepting the brush and debris, although proof of residency is required, and the volume of materials may be limited due to the capacity available. As for curbside pick-up of bulk items and bulk brush (in excess of 2 bundles), it will remain available as an option to our citizens, although it will no longer be "free". For details on scheduling and costs, contact DCI Sanitation at 972-878-0809.

City Hall has received some electrical upgrades and is now more energy efficient. The costs of these upgrades were offset thanks to a "Take a Load Off Texas" city-matching grant provided by Oncor. These upgrades include replacement of the existing T-12 lamps and ballasts with more energy efficient T-8 lamps, electronic ballasts, and a new HVAC system, which replaced the remaining "original" air conditioning unit. Because of the upgrades, City Hall should save more than 9,850 kilowatt-hours per year; which means saving your tax dollars.

After receiving and reviewing the TxDOT's 2009 Annual Bridge Inspection Report for the Woodhaven Bridge, it became a priority to investigate possible solutions to the replacement of this bridge on or before 2015. In addition, TxDOT has also offered a possible grant source (Off-State System Federal-Aid Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation Program) to replace the bridge for an estimated cost of \$800,000.00. The grant would fund 80% of the cost, TxDOT will

provide 10% and the city will be responsible for the remaining 10%. As this review process continues, we will host one or more public hearings to obtain input from our citizens prior to making a decision to proceed with the bridge replacement work.

The North Ellis County Coalition of Cities has held two meetings, since the spring Oak Leaf Newsletter was published. Topics of discussion have included TxDOT's Loop 9 project, widening of Ovilla Road/FM 664 (from Interstate 45 to the south side of the City of Ovilla), and a regional animal shelter for the north Ellis County area. In addition, the Coalition committee chairman is attempting to schedule a meeting in Austin with several of our elected officials and decision makers within the TxDOT organization.

The city-wide drainage project has been postponed until 2011. Council will continue, however, to review problem areas where drainage work will need to be done. Once the work starts, City Staff will send out messages using the ConnectCTY communications service. To confirm your registration status and information, you can go to the city's website (www.oakleaftexas.org) and click on the ConnectCTY link. Prior to the initiation of this drainage work each property owner, in which work is to be done, will be contacted, so the scope of work can be explained and deemed acceptable.

Potholes around Oak Leaf have been patched and our new contractor (Pavecon) has done an excellent job. We are in discussion to set this pothole repair work on a regular cycle throughout the warm weather months. In addition, the Council is planning to competitively bid out resurfacing of the city's high traffic roads (Locust Drive, S. Hampton Road and Red Oak Creek Road). More information will be provided as it is available.

In conclusion, I would like to wish all of you a happy holiday season. It is my hope that each of you takes the time to enjoy your family and friends. We all need to be thankful for this great nation we live in and remember all the young men and women in various military branches who are going to be away from home during this holiday time.

Paul Klooster

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HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

City Hall will be closed:



Thanksgiving

Thursday, Nov. 25th
and Friday, Nov. 26th

Christmas

Thursday, Dec. 23rd
and Friday, Dec. 24th

New Year's Eve

Friday, Dec. 31st

NEW ORDINANCES

- Ordinance 1005**—regarding vehicle definitions and parking of commercial and oversized vehicles
- Ordinance 1006**—regarding abandoned and junked motor vehicle definitions
- Ordinance 1007**—regarding the power of City Council to define and prohibit nuisances
- Ordinance 1008**—regarding house addressing numbers

ADDRESSING IS IMPORTANT

In order to improve the response time of emergency and service vehicles in Oak Leaf, Ordinance 1008 has been adopted. It requires all new *and existing* houses to have addressing numbers that are clearly visible. Mailboxes will also be required to have numbering (on both sides). More information will be sent out in the next few weeks about this project.

Spring/Fall Clean-ups Are Back

Starting in the spring of 2011, the city will begin twice-a-year clean-ups. During the events, there will be two large dumpsters, a trash compacting truck, and a chipper available at City Hall to handle bulk brush and bulk items.

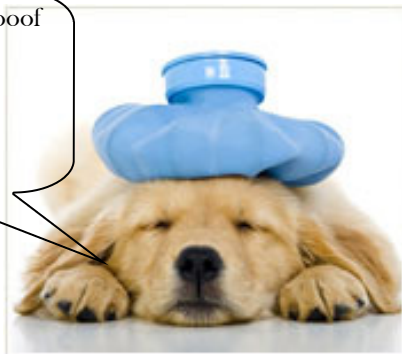
More information will be mailed out closer to time of the events.

DOG REGISTRATION Reminder

For dogs not registered within 60 days of residency or failure to renew registration within 30 days of renewal date, owners will be fined (\$10.00) ten dollars per animal. If the dogs are not registered within ten (10) working days of the late registration date, the fine increases to twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) per month per animal.

Ooooo ... woooooof,woooooof woof woof.

TRANSLATION: Oh my head... Please renew my registration soon.



- May 11th**
Swearing in of Council Members
- June 8th**
Discussion of TxDOT's offer to help replace Woodhaven Bridge
- July 13th**
Council voted to authorize the Woodhaven Bridge be included in the TxDOT bridge replacement program
- August**
 - 10th**—Discussion of options in lieu of Woodhaven Bridge.
 - 12th**—Approval for Oncor's "Take a Load Off" city and school matching grant program
 - 25th**—Discussion of new security camera system for City Hall
- September**
 - 7th**— Approval of new security camera system for City Hall
 - 14th**—Budget and lower tax rate were approved
- October 12th**
An Eagle Scout project has been approved to refurbish the flowerbeds around City Hall



The Blackboard connect service makes it possible for citizens to stay linked with the city about time sensitive issues such as severe weather, waterline disruptions, etc. If you have not signed up yet for the service, go to the City of Oak Leaf's website at www.oakleaftexas.org, click on the Blackboard connect prompt button and follow the instructions given. It doesn't take much time and is well worth the effort.

SCAMS

If the deal sounds to good to be true, it probably is. If you suspect a person or company of committing fraud or a scam, contact the Texas Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division Consumer hotline at (800) 621-0508 and your local sheriff's department. You should also be very cautious when asked to give out your personal information (Social Security #, bank account information, etc.) whether in-person, by phone or over the internet.

A SOLICITOR'S PERMIT is the size of a business card with the city's stamp on the back... ***ASK FOR IT!***



DCI SANITATION, LLC

(972) 878-0809

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Monday – Friday

Call DCI for payment plans and discounts.

Starting in October, curbside pick-up of bulk brush and bulk items will be at the property owner's expense, but weekly pick-ups of two (2) brush bundles will continue to be picked up at no charge on the regular pick-up day (Thursday). The bundles must be tied up, cut into lengths less than 4 feet and weigh less than fifty pounds. DCI Sanitation has also changed their fees. The new rates are \$12.57 per month, \$37.71 per quarter, and \$138.28 per year (which includes one month free).

Getting Rid of Pesky Critters



Animals such as skunks, raccoons, opossums, armadillos, and squirrels can destroy property and a property owner's peace of mind. As a rule of thumb, it is always a good idea to make the area they are disturbing as inhospitable as possible (no food, no drink and no place to hide). Here are a couple of other helpful tips to try:



- ◆ Skunks, raccoons, and opossums are nocturnal creatures and will shy away from bright light and loud music. Of course, make sure to check with your neighbors and City Hall before playing any music too loud.
- ◆ Armadillos love to eat mole crickets, chinch bugs, ants, etc. If they are digging around your property, you may have an insect infestation and will need to apply an insecticide. As an added deterrent, try spraying castor oil in and around the areas where the armadillos are digging. They don't like the taste of it.
- ◆ Squirrels are cute and pesky rodents. If you are inundated with squirrels who are eating your bird seed, try using safflower seeds. Cardinals, chickadees, mourning doves and various finches love it, but it has a slightly bitter taste that many squirrels don't like.



If all attempts fail to rid your property of these pests, you may have to call a local exterminator.



Citizens Of Oak Leaf

City Council is asking for your help. Each month we would like to recognize Oak Leaf citizens for their accomplishments and/or activities that make them outstanding individuals. In the past, recognition has been given to a photography contest finalist, graduates, and extra helpful neighbors.

We need you to recognize a **C.O.O.L.** person!

MAILBOX AT CITY HALL

For your convenience, we now have an official U. S. mailbox at City Hall for easy drop-offs.



KIDNET KORNER

Websites for all ages

Here are some websites with for kids (young and old) to enjoy and share.

GET INVOLVED

Help your child understand the importance of living green at www.kabman.org

Learn about saving electricity at www.ulsafetysmart.com/gamecenter

Teach your kids about being safe on the internet at www.netsmartkids.org/games

Get information about 'America's Recycle Day' on November 25 at www.ktb.org

And of course, www.dontmesswithtexas.org

MUNICIPAL COURT

**CITY HALL 972-617-2660
972-617-7108 FAX**

The City of Oak Leaf has court every third Thursday at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Meeting Area.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Oak Leaf City Council meets at 301 Locust Drive the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. The agenda is posted inside and outside of City Hall and also on the city's website. It is posted on Friday before the meeting or 72 hours before any special called meeting.

CITY COUNCIL

Mayor: Paul Klooster
Council: Mayor Pro Tem Pat Mahlstedt, Ray Brindle, Ron Spurlock, Jim Tuma and Craig Wilson

CITY STAFF

City Secretary: Ronda Quintana
Assistant City Secretary/Court Clerk: Patty Ellis



Please be sure to sign-up for emails on the city's website for up-to-date information.

UTILITIES:

DCI Sanitation	972-878-0809
OnCor Electric	800-242-9113
HILCO Electric	800-338-6425
Glenn Heights Water	972-223-1690 x200
Rockett Water	972-617-3524
Sardis-Lone Elm Water	972-775-8566
Charter Communications	866-937-2427
AT&T	214-646-1587
TierOne	866-551-1367

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER:

Ellis County Chronicle 972-617-6397

ANIMAL CONTROL:

Call City Hall (Mon-Fri / 8 a.m.- 4 p.m.) 972-617-2660
Weekend & Nights **Emergencies ONLY** 972-937-6060

EMERGENCY:

9-1-1

POISON CONTROL: 214-589-0911

NON-EMERGENCY:

SHERIFF 972-825-4901

CONSTABLE 972-775-2046

RED OAK FIRE DEPT. 972-617-2143

Little Creek Estates Summer Hill Estates Oak Leaf Farms
Oak Leaf Meadows

OVILLA FIRE DEPT. 972-515-3390

Schafer Acres Hampton Acres South Haven
Hollywood Estates Willow Creek Farms Chapman Ranch
Indian Hills

MISCELLANEOUS:

Red Oak I.S.D. 972-617-2941

U.S. Post Office 800-275-8777

Ellis Co. Health Dept. 972-825-5200

PUBLIC ADVERTISING (FREE) {Mon-Sat / 8-10a.m.}

KBEC 1390 Radio 972-938-1390

**CITY OF OAK LEAF
301 LOCUST DRIVE
OAK LEAF, TEXAS**

A community dedicated to family values and a country living lifestyle.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

