

OAK LEAF NEWS

Spring/Summer 2011

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



MAYOR'S MEMO

Spring has arrived, and it's a good time for outdoor activities such as walking, riding a bicycle and doing yard work. While you are outside, take time to get to visit with your neighbors. Now more than ever, it is important to get to know

those around you and be aware of suspicious activities in your neighborhood.

Back in February, results from the 2010 U.S. Census were publicized. Even though we are a small community, we have grown approximately 7.4 percent, since the 2000 U.S. Census was taken. Our population is currently 1298. This is encouraging and we will, no doubt, continue to grow over the years.

Due to dry and windy weather conditions this year, many areas of Texas have experienced out-of-control wildfires. Oak Leaf has been fortunate enough to have had some precipitation, but as you know, it doesn't take much for this to change. To ensure you and your family are fire ready, a wildfire safety booklet is available at City Hall. It contains helpful tips to protect your home against wildfires and what you should do in the event of a fire. You can also visit the Texas Forest Service website at <http://texasforestservicetamu.edu> and click on the "Protect Your Home" tab on the left-hand side of the screen.

Since late February, many pot holes have developed and the street edges in certain areas have deteriorated. City Council has contacted Pavecon, Ltd. to submit a proposal for the road work and will likely take action in the May Council Meeting.

The Council has also been in touch with Birkhoff, Hendricks, and Carter, LLP regarding resurfacing of the streets in Oak

Leaf. Because of budget constraints, the city has initiated plans to start with the high traffic areas. This will be the first step towards resurfacing all of the streets in the city.

It has been determined that Woodhaven Bridge will have to be replaced due to its age and condition, so the city is trying to negotiate the replacement of the bridge with another one-lane bridge instead of the two-lane bridge proposed by the Off-State System Federal-Aid Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation Program. On March 8th, TxDOT Engineer Bill Pierce was invited to visually inspect the Woodhaven Bridge and was also shown the access easement for overweight emergency and city-approved vehicles (school buses, trash trucks, etc.) to use. Mr. Pierce has agreed to research the possibility of a one-lane bridge and will notify the Council, once he had heard back from the appropriate state authorities.

On April 16th, the City held its first Clean-Up Day of the year, and it was a huge success. Over one hundred households came out and helped fill two forty-foot dumpsters, a compacting trash truck and two twenty-foot trailers. In addition, many citizens brought in their brush which nearly filled the yard area on the west side of City Hall. The city also provided a chipper service to mulch some of the brush. For those of you who would like some mulch for your flowerbeds or gardens, it can be picked up anytime. If another major storm hits Oak Leaf in the spring/summer, we may look at having another Clean-Up Day. Despite what happens, there will definitely be one in the fall.

In closing, I would like to say Oak Leaf is a great community to live in. If we are considerate of our neighbors and work together, it will continue to be a place that we will be proud to call home.

Paul Klooster

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HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

City Hall will be closed:



Memorial Day
Monday, May 30th

4th of July
Monday, July 4th

Labor Day
Monday, Sept. 5th

9-1-1 ADDRESSING

In order to improve the response time of emergency and service vehicles in Oak Leaf, **all new and existing houses must:**

1. Have an address number on the house that is at least 4 inches in height, be made of metal or weather proof material and be contrasting to their background.
2. Have address numbers on both sides of the mailbox that are at least 3 inches in height. They must be a contrasting color to the mailbox and be reflective.

If a house is more than 50 feet from main road, the house numbers may be placed on a gate or fence where the driveway meets the main road.

FACT: Add a can of lemon-lime soda, along with your regular detergent, to extra-greasy clothes. The citrus acid breaks down the grease and your wash will sparkle.

Clean-Up Days

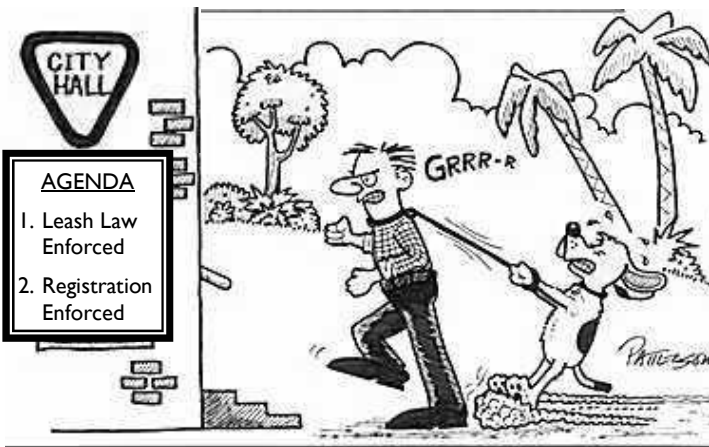
Spring clean up was a great success, and mulch for your garden is now available at City Hall.

A fall Clean up Day will be scheduled in the next few months.

FACT: Mosquitoes are attracted to the color blue twice as much as to any other color.

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 per animal. If the dogs are not registered within ten working days of the late registration date, the fine increases to \$25.00 per month per animal.



November 9th

Discussion of repairing/replacement of Woodhaven Bridge

December 14th

A new municipal judge will need to be appointed, since Judge Bob Carroll has been elected to the 40th Judicial District Court.

January 11th

Swearing-in of new municipal judge, Rodney Ramsey.

February 8th

Discussion of rehabilitating the city's main thoroughfare roads (Red Oak Creek Drive, S. Hampton Road and Locust Drive)

March 8th

Swearing in of new prosecuting attorney, John Perkins, III

April 12th

Canceling of Oak Leaf's General Election due to all Council places being unopposed.

To PERMIT Or Not To PERMIT

Before remodeling, building, or making repairs to your home, please call City Hall. Any work done without a permit could cause the fees to double. Plus, if the work is considered a safety hazard by the city's building inspector, you may be requested to tear it down or make costly repairs. Remember...permits are needed for electrical, plumbing, HVAC, hot water heaters and much more.



MAILBOX AT CITY HALL

Citizens Of Oak Leaf

HELP! Each month City Council 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 graduates, a photography contest finalist, and extra helpful neighbors.

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

DCI SANITATION, LLC

DCI SANITATION has moved to Bardwell and changed their phone number!

NEW: 972-646-5461

They will pick up bulky items for a minimal fee. Call for payment plans and discounts.



Composting Tips

1. Grass clippings add necessary nitrogen to a compost pile, but be sure to mix with the "brown" materials that add carbon. Both are necessary for quick decomposition and rich compost. Piles made up of just grass will compact, slow down and start to stink.
2. Do not compost fats, pet droppings, or animal products. They will attract pests to the pile and can spread disease.
3. Newspaper or plain white paper from the computer is excellent for composting - just remember to shred it first to speed up the process.
4. Got Compost? When finished it should look, feel and smell like rich, dark soil. You should not be able to recognize any of the items you put in there.
5. Plants that have been treated with pesticides and/or herbicides (weeds and lawn clippings) should not be composted.
6. Finished compost is usually less than half the volume of the materials you started with, but it's much denser.
7. Wooden pallets make excellent compost bins. Start with one pallet on the ground. Drive two metal stakes into each side. Slide additional pallets over each support and you have a bin ready for compost.
8. The perfect size for a compost pile is one that is at least 3' x 3' x 3'. It's not only a manageable size to turn, but it's ideal for retaining heat while still allowing air flow.
9. For faster composting keep your pile or compost bin in direct sun.
10. Does your compost pile smell? It's probably due to a large number of anaerobic microbes, which are working hard to break down your compost, but creating a smelly situation in the process. To cut down on the anaerobic process, aerate your pile regularly, creating air spaces and limiting the anaerobic microbes while stimulating the less stinky aerobic microbes.
11. Anything that was living at one time is great for compost bins. Think of leaves, fruits, vegetables, coffee grounds and grass clippings.
12. Apply finished compost to your garden about 2-4 weeks before you plant, giving the compost time to integrate and stabilize within the soil.
13. For faster results, use a compost turner every two weeks to aerate your pile.



SIGN UP NOW
Blackboard
connect

Texas is known for its changes in weather, and tornado season is upon us. Please make sure your contact number is correct on the Blackboard Connect website.

To verify your information, go to the City of Oak Leaf's website at www.oakleaftexas.org, click on the Blackboard Connect CTY prompt button and follow the instructions given. It doesn't take much time and is well worth the effort.

Please notify the City of Oak Leaf if you or any member of your family has special needs. If at anytime there is a disaster, we want to know your particular needs.



Why Prepare? Emergencies and disasters can strike quickly and without warning and can force an evacuation or confine you to your home.

1. What kind of assistance is needed?
2. If debris is in your area, could you get passed it?
3. Do you need special equipment or transportation?
4. Do you take medicines or oxygen?
5. Do you have a service animal/pet?
6. Do you have an out-of-town friend that can be contacted regarding your needs?

FACT: Bees and wasps will stay away from your food if you place a fresh sprig of mint on your picnic blanket.

KIDNET KORNER

Websites for all ages

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

Fun Reading for the Summer:

<http://www.squiglyplayhouse.com/JokesAndRiddles/>

Games and Printables for Kids:

<http://pbskids.org/>

Activities for Kids:

<http://www.crayola.com/>

Traffic Safety & More for All Ages:

<http://www.texaslre.org/games.html>

MUNICIPAL COURT

The City of Oak Leaf has court every third Thursday of each month 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.

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

UTILITIES:

DCI Sanitation	972-646-5461
OnCor Electric	800-242-9113
HILCO Electric	800-338-6425
Glenn Heights Water	972-223-1690 ext. 200
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
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ANIMAL CONTROL:

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

EMERGENCY:

9-1-1

POISON CONTROL:	214-589-0911
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NON-EMERGENCY:

SHERIFF	972-825-4901	
CONSTABLE	972-775-2046	
RED OAK FIRE DEPT.	469-218-7713	
Little Creek Estates	Summer Hill Estates	Oak Leaf Farms
Oak Leaf Meadows		
OVILLA FIRE DEPT.	972-617-7375	
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. Dept. of Development	972-825-5200

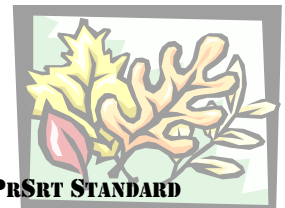
PUBLIC ADVERTISING (FREE) {Mon-Sat / 8-10a.m.}

KBEC 1390 Radio	972-938-1390
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**CITY OF OAK LEAF
301 LOCUST DRIVE
OAK LEAF, TEXAS**

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



**PRST STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
RED OAK, TX
PERMIT No.
51**