



OAK LEAF NEWS

Fall / Winter 2011

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



MAYOR'S MEMO

In July, I was honored to be appointed as Mayor of the City of Oak Leaf. After many years of service to our city, Paul Klooster decided to step down from the position of Mayor for personal reasons. I,

along with all the other council members, appreciate his service. Along with Paul, Pat Mahlstedt also left us this year. Pat served on the City Council since 2000 and was an asset to the city and its development, since it was first incorporated. Fortunately, we were able to have James Pierce come in and fill her seat. Mr. Pierce has lived in Oak Leaf since 2008 and owns alarm businesses in Texas and Missouri.

With my appointment to the mayoral position, there is a vacant seat on the Council. If you have an interest in giving back to your community by serving in a leadership position, please consider running as a candidate for election in the spring. The application period to file for the election will open in mid-February. I encourage anyone interested to attend Council Meetings and become familiar with the happenings and operations of the city.

For the past five years, the city has been involved in litigation with the developer of the Indian Hills Subdivision due to the rapid deterioration of the roads. Over time, the city incurred repair expenses to keep these roads in reasonable condition. That lawsuit has been settled, and the accepted offer allows us to recover legal expenses from the lawsuit and repair costs incurred while maintaining the roads.

Before the end of the year, you will see some construction projects begin. The engineering design is nearing completion for Locust Street, which will be rebuilt from the Uhl Bridge to Elm Street. The project will involve significant road repairs and excavation of drainage ditches to allow conveyance of storm water

away from the road. The drainage problem, along with the increase in traffic, has led to the road's deterioration. Changes in traffic flow will be necessary to complete the work, so please bear with us during construction.

We have been approached by TxDOT regarding the truss bridge on Woodhaven Drive. It qualifies for replacement under the Federal Highway Bridge Program. We are working with TxDOT to find an acceptable solution for replacing the bridge that will fit the neighborhood and guidelines of the program. As the project progresses, we will keep the residents informed and present the initial findings prior to fully committing to the project. In the next few weeks, we will have new runners installed and deck boards repaired on bridge.

Another construction project you will notice is the installation of a communications tower on the property behind City Hall. Earlier this year, we were approached by a tower company about building a communications structure in the city. They had identified the property behind City Hall as a prime location and began negotiating a lease agreement with the city. After four months of working out the details, we have an acceptable agreement that will provide additional revenue to the city for years to come.

With the additional revenue from the tower, the Council was able to approve a slight increase to the tax rate without placing an unnecessary burden on our citizens. We were happy to have several citizens attend the budget hearings and express their concerns about the financial operation of the city. An involved public helps us do our job and keep a pulse of the heartbeat of the city. I encourage each of you to attend council meetings and let us know your opinions on how our city operates. As the weather cools down, I hope you can spend time outdoors getting to know your neighbors and enjoying the fall and approaching holiday season.

Craig Wilson

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HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

City Hall will be closed:



Thanksgiving
Thursday and Friday
November 24 & 25

Christmas
Friday and Monday
December 23 & 26

New Year
Monday January 2

Martin Luther King Day
Monday January 16

Is Your Home a Target?

Here are nine tips to keep your home safe:

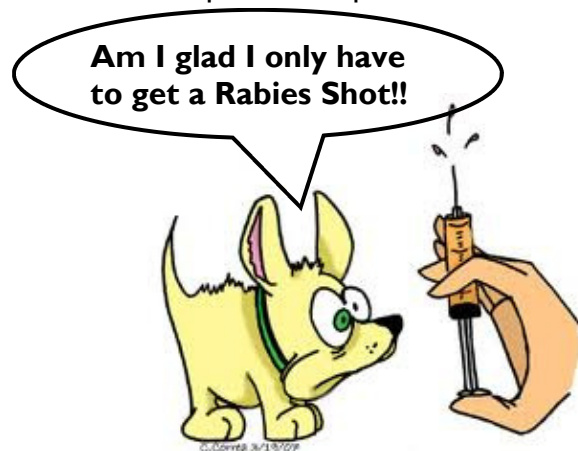
1. Don't leave your garage door open or unlocked. Once inside the garage a burglar can use any tools and as much time as needed to break into your home.
2. Don't hide spare keys. Burglars know about fake rocks and gnome statues.
3. Don't store ladders outdoors or in unlocked sheds, which can easily be used to access upper floor windows & doors.
4. Don't rely on silent alarm systems. Everyone hates the noisy alarms, but they also will draw attention & burglars don't want that.
5. Don't let landscaping get overgrown and have no outdoor lighting. You are creating hiding places for burglars.
6. Don't leave boxes by the curb. That just 'screams' new...flat-screen, stereo or any type of big ticket item.
7. Don't post too much information on facebook. Burglars have social media sites too.
8. Always secure sliding doors. These are very tempting targets.
9. Don't rely on your dog's barking. Barking may deter amateurs, but some know that a dog will get chummy for a treat.

Citizens Of Oak Leaf

HELP us recognize a C.O.O.L. person!

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.



- May 17th**
A request from DCI Sanitation to change the city's pick-up day from Thursdays to Wednesdays was approved.
- June 14th**
Councilman Craig Wilson was appointed acting mayor for the remainder of the mayoral term.
- July 12th**
Discussion regarding the installment of a communications tower on city property.
- August 9th**
Fall Clean Up date is set for October 15th.
- August 30th**
Discussion of citywide tree trimming along main roads
- September 13th**
Approval of a communications tower on city property
- September 26th**
Settlement offer accepted regarding the Indian Hills Subdivision roads



MAILBOX AT CITY HALL
Daily pick-up Monday-Saturday

The official newspaper for the City of Oak Leaf is now the Waxahachie Daily Light.

KIDNET KORNER

Websites for All Ages

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

Touchstone Energy for kids
<http://www.touchstoneenergykids.com/fun.php>

Highlights for Kids
<http://www.highlightskids.com/GamesandGiggles/gamesArchive/hpTopArchive.asp>

Here is a website to use for a school project, scouts, or any one that has a group of kids...

Crafts from Recycled Items
<http://www.craftbits.com/recycled-crafts>



DCI SANITATION, LLC

972-646-5461



Holiday Schedule:

Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 24
 Christmas, Sunday, December 25
 New Year's Day, Sunday, January 1
 Memorial Day, Monday, May 28
 4th of July, Wednesday, July 4
 Labor Day, Monday, September 3

Pick-Up Schedule:

NO change
 Thursday, December 29
 Thursday, January 5
 Thursday, May 31
 Thursday, July 5
 Thursday, September 6

Recycle:

None
 None
 None
 None
 None
 None

For Your Information: The standard amount of trash for a single household is 8 bags. DCI will pick-up two bundles of limbs/brush (tied and weighting less than 50 lbs.) each week. Also, they will pick up miscellaneous bulky items for a minimal fee. Call for payment plans and discounts.

USES FOR CITRUS FRUIT RINDS / PEEL



◇ Blackened aluminum saucepans can be cleaned by boiling water and citrus rinds in them. Any remaining stain can be removed with a steel wool pad.

- ◇ Add citrus peel to tea leaves while they are brewing or put several small strips and a tea bag into a cup with some boiled water.
- ◇ After carrying out dirty chores press nail tips into the pithy side of a lemon rind to clean them.
- ◇ Citrus rinds added to simmering cinnamon and cloves will make your home smell lovely.
- ◇ Rub lemon rind over cutting boards to clean and deodorize it.
- ◇ Add some dried citrus rinds the fire to give off a spicy fragrance.
- ◇ Orange peel scattered on flowerbeds deters cats.

Inspections...Permits...?? Why?

Before remodeling or making repairs to your home, please call City Hall.

Remember...permits are needed for electrical, plumbing, HVAC, hot water heaters and much more. PLUS, any work done without a permit could cause the fees to double.



COMING SOON...

ENFORCEMENT OF ADDRESSING

Watch for more information regarding required placement of addresses for emergency vehicles.

MAKE YOUR OLD COMPUTER USEFUL AGAIN

Build a media server:

This is an easy one -- store all your photos, videos, and music on your computer and hook it up to your home entertainment system. Watch movies and slideshows on your TV and listen to music on your stereo!

Read more: <http://www.businessinsider.com/what-to-do-with-an-old-computer-2011-7#build-a-media-server-5#ixzz1Z642J8Ag>

Make a digital picture frame:

Whether it's family photos or original drawings, it's easy to show them off with the display from your old laptop.

Read more: <http://www.businessinsider.com/what-to-do-with-an-old-computer-2011-7#make-a-digital-picture-frame-12#ixzz1Z65owV4t>

Automate your home:

If you install LinuxMCE on your old machine and wire up some essential hardware, you can remotely control your heat and air conditioning, turn your lights on and off, and keep an eye on home security.

Read more: <http://www.businessinsider.com/what-to-do-with-an-old-computer-2011-7#automate-your-home-14#ixzz1Z66JhGHd>

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: Craig Wilson
Council: Mayor Pro Tem James Pierce, Ray Brindle, Ron Spurlock and Jim Tuma

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:

Waxahachie Daily Light 972-937-3310

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

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

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

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

