

OAK LEAF NEWS

Winter 2017-2018

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



MAYOR'S MEMO

Dear Neighbor,

I want to talk about two things in this letter. First, a brief update on what the city council has accomplished in 2017.

And second, some foreseeable problems as newcomers move into Oak Leaf.

City Council Update

The council has worked hard this year. They crafted a lean budget and again reduced the city's tax rate in order to offset inflated property values and keep our taxes the same.

More streets were resurfaced in 2017 than in any year in recent history, and we have already scheduled the resurfacing of Cedar Drive and East Highland Road as soon as weather permits in the spring. Resurfacing of Locust Drive and South Hampton Road will be postponed until after the expected heavy detour traffic from the widening of Ovilla Road reduces to normal levels. In the meantime, we must diligently keep the potholes filled.

The council has also worked through unanticipated, silly governmental red tape to complete the picnic pavilion and is finalizing contracts for completion of public restrooms for pavilion users.

Council and staff have coordinated with the state to complete the new Woodhaven bridge, cajoled and pressured the property owner and the mortgage company to repair the damaged house that was such an eyesore at 101 Forest Brook Drive, and devoted substantial time to dealing with issues such as operation of a go-kart racing track in the city limits, the continuing nuisance from the operation of

Catracho's Auto Repair, and negotiations with our waste disposal company regarding complaints and a new contract.

In addition to a long list of other, routine matters, the council has worked many, many hours on revising our outdated and often inconsistent city code of ordinances. That important project is nearing completion.

I personally appreciate the time and effort that council members and city staff have contributed to the betterment of the city and hope you do too.

Facing the Future

Oak Leaf was initially settled by folks who wanted to escape the regimentation and confines of the city and live in the country. That's even reflected in our city logo – "A community dedicated to family values and a country living lifestyle." Many bought acreage to raise horses and other livestock like cattle and goats.

More recently we have seen an influx of folks who want to build expensive homes here. They want the city to protect their property values by enforcing stricter building codes and by aggressively limiting uses by other residents that they fear will hurt property values.

Unhappily, this creates a tension that affects everything from type of fencing and outbuildings to outside storage of equipment and noise levels from outside activities. Conditions that were unobjectionable on acreage in the country may now be objectionable to a neighbor who wants to preserve the value of his expensive home.

Council and staff have had to deal with these difficult issues more in 2017 than in

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HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

City hall will be closed:

Good Friday Day
Friday, March 30th

Memorial Day
Monday, May 28th

Independence Day
Wednesday, July 4th

Labor Day
Monday, Sept. 3th

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the past, and it seems clear that we will have to deal with them even more in the future.

In previous letters I have encouraged us all to be good neighbors. Even if you think of yourself as living in the country remember that your use of your property affects your neighbors. Don't accumulate an unsightly pile of building materials or furniture or appliances or anything else that your neighbors must see every time they look out their windows. Be considerate. Keep your property looking good – that helps your property value too, you know.

On the other hand, if you are one who wants to rigidly control someone else's use of their own property, remember that they may have moved here first because they wanted to live in the country and it may not be fair to now preclude them from putting up a hay barn on their 18 acres, or to require them to erect only wrought iron fence. Oak Leaf is not Highland Park.

When these issues have come before the city council the council has tried to be fair – sometimes enforcing city codes and sometimes granting variances from the code. And I believe the council will continue to weigh the equities and try to do the right thing.

In the end, however, we all need to respect each other's property rights, be good neighbors and avoid being petty.

Bob Rader

ROAD PROJECTS

In the spring, work will begin to resurface Forest Brook Drive, Meadowbrook Drive, Woodhaven Court, Cedar Drive and E. Highland Road. Residents directly affected will be notified prior to the start of work. For more information regarding the projects, please visit the city's website.



COUNCIL BRIEFS

June 13th

Swearing-in of council members

July 11th

Evaluated trash collection services

August 8th

Approved changes to Chapter 4 of City Code

September 12th

Approved reduced tax rate of \$0.340645/\$100.00

October 10th

Approved resurfacing of Cedar Dr. & E. Highland

October 16th

Discussed pending litigation

November 14th

Approved changes to fence code

Advice from An Old Farmer

Your fences need to be horse-high, pig-tight and bull-strong.
Keep skunks and bankers at a distance.
Life is simpler when you plow around the stump.
A bumble bee is considerably faster than a John Deere tractor.
Words that soak into your ears are whispered... not yelled.
Meanness don't jes' happen overnight.
Forgive your enemies; it messes up their heads.
Do not corner something that you know is meaner than you.
It don't take a very big person to carry a grudge.
You cannot unsay a cruel word.
Every path has a few puddles.
When you wallow with pigs, expect to get dirty.
The best sermons are lived, not preached.
Most of the stuff people worry about ain't never gonna happen anyway.
Don't judge folks by their relatives.
Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.
Live a good, honorable life... Then when you get older and think back, you'll enjoy it a second time.
Don't interfere with somethin' that ain't bothering you none.
Timing has a lot to do with the outcome of a rain dance.
If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing is stop diggin'.
The biggest troublemaker you'll probably ever have to deal with, watches you from the mirror every mornin'.
Always drink upstream from the herd.
Good judgment comes from experience, and a lotta that comes from bad judgment.
Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier than puttin' it back in.
If you get to thinkin' you're a person of some influence, try orderin' somebody else's dog around..
Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply.
Speak kindly. Leave the rest to God.
Don't pick a fight with an old man. If he is too old to fight, he'll just kill you.
Most times, it just gets down to common sense.





DCI SANITATION, LLC

972-646-5461



Holiday Schedule:

Pick-Up Scheduled for:

Memorial Day, May 28th	Thursday	NO Recycling That Week
Independence Day, July 4th	Thursday	NO Recycling That Week
Labor Day, September 4th	Thursday	NO Recycling That Week

Basic Information: The standard amount of trash for a single household is 8 bags. D.C.I. Sanitation will pick-up two bundles of limbs/brush (*tied and weighing less than 50 lbs.*) each week. Also, they will pick up miscellaneous bulky items for a minimal fee. Recyclable items can go in clear or blue plastic bags if you have more than your bin will hold. Call (972) 646-5461 for payment plans and discounts.

*****Remember to secure all trash and recyclables to prevent them from blowing into your neighbors' yards.*****



CODE COMPLIANCE

City Council has directed City Staff to begin actively noting apparent code violations in the city. If you are unsure if your property is in violation, please call city hall

or visit the city's website.

CITY HALL ROOM RENTAL

The city hall meeting room is available to rent for public and private events. It has a 50-person capacity with a full kitchen and bathroom facilities. Tables and folding chairs are provided. The rental fees are as follows:

- Resident Rate: \$100.00
- Non-resident Rate: \$150.00
- Refundable Damage Deposit: \$150.00

For more information, please call or e-mail City Staff.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION FOR SPECIAL NEEDS CITIZENS



If you know of someone that may need assistance during and/or after a natural or man-made disaster, please let City Staff know.

DOG REGISTRATION

You now have the option of registering your dog for one or three years depending on the length of the rabies shot.

One-year registrations are \$5 for altered dogs and \$10 for unaltered dogs.

Three-year registrations are \$15 for altered dogs and \$30 for unaltered dogs. If you are registering your dog by mail, there is an additional \$1 charge per dog for registration.

Poor Ol' Joe needs bail 'Cause he's now in jail...



Weather Terms

Outlook—issued when a hazardous event is possible in the next week. Intended to raise awareness.

Advisory—issued when a hazardous event is occurring, imminent or likely.

Watch— used when the risk of a hazardous event has increased, but is still uncertain.

Warning— issued when a hazardous event is occurring and pose a threat to life or property.

Insurance Companies are Checking for Permits!

There may be dire consequences for the homeowner who has work done on his or her home without a permit, such as denial of an insurance claim and legal complications at the time of sale if there are construction defects or negligence.

Not only are building permits needed for electrical, plumbing and HVAC work but *also* for flatwork, hot water heaters and replacing toilets.

Call or email city hall if you have any questions.



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: Bob Rader
Council: Mayor Pro Tem James Pierce, Christy Godwin, Joyce Liptak, Jimmie Lamb and Susanne Ellis.



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.

CITY STAFF

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

**EXTRA! EXTRA!
READ ALL ABOUT IT!
Blackboard
connect™**

To be informed about events and happenings in Oak Leaf, sign up for Blackboard Connect and Constant Contact on the city’s website (www.oakleaftexas.org).

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
Rockett Water	972-617-3524
Sardis-Lone Elm Water	972-775-8566
AT&T	214-646-1587
TierOne	214-217-8626
Rise Broadband	972-617-8889
Charter Spectrum Cable	800-892-4357

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER:

Waxahachie Daily Light	972-937-3310
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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	972-825-5317
RED OAK FIRE DEPARTMENT	469-218-7713
OVILLA FIRE DEPARTMENT	972-617-7375

MISCELLANEOUS:

Red Oak I.S.D.	972-617-2941
U.S. Post Office	800-275-8777
Ellis County Dept. of Development	972-825-5200
Tax Assessor Office in Red Oak	972-576-4865

PUBLIC ADVERTISING (FREE)

KBEC 1390 Radio {Mon.-Sat. 8-10 a.m.}	972-938-1390
NextDoor.com	

CITY OF OAK LEAF *A community dedicated to family values and a country living lifestyle.*
301 LOCUST DRIVE
OAK LEAF, TEXAS
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

