



OAK LEAF NEWS

Fall/Winter 2009

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



MAYOR'S MEMO

As the calendar year-end approaches, many are preparing for the holiday season. Decorations are up in the retail stores and will soon be going up throughout our neighborhoods. Even one local radio station has been playing nothing but holiday

music for several weeks to encourage the public's festive mood. Nevertheless, this is a time of year when families, friends, and business associates get together ... giving thanks for memories, past and present and best wishes for the future. I hope each of you has a joyful and meaningful time with your loved ones, and a time to reflect on happy memories of loved ones no longer with us.

After receiving more than double the usual rainfall these past three months, we are reminded how important proper drainage is to the city's neighborhoods. A city-wide drainage project is being planned to address the most troublesome areas. With each property owner working in conjunction with the city, hopefully we will be better prepared for the 2010 rainy season. As future demands and budget cycles occur, additional work will be performed on the city's infrastructure to include street re-surfacing and a drainage issue resolution.

Bridge erosion control improvements are almost complete at the Locust/Uhl Bridge, and similar work has begun at the Woodhaven/Meadowbrook Bridge. The majority of the costs are being compensated by grants from Federal and State agencies. We are continuing to research the availability of, and apply for, additional grants for future city projects.

Although various degrees of high speed internet access are already available from dial-up and wireless providers, DSL is not yet accessible to all citizens of Oak Leaf. However, AT&T has been working to increase availability of DSL service in this area of north Ellis County. To confirm if DSL is offered at your home's address; go to the AT&T website at www.att.com.

The new Red Oak High School is progressing rapidly towards its long anticipated completion, which is scheduled for April, 2010. Funding for the \$77 million dollar facility is from the 2007 bond package.

Wet weather has delayed some portions of the exterior work; however, it has also allowed the interior work to be ahead of schedule. Use of the facility will commence at the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year. How truly excited those students will be to attend a first-class facility and especially those seniors being the "first" class to graduate from that facility. The ROISD Board and Administration have strived to exceed standards of excellence in financial accountability, graduation rates, and especially the education of the children in our community.

The Mayor of Red Oak, Alan Hugley, has initiated contact with elected representatives throughout a number of cities in the north Ellis County area with the desire to create a coalition of cities working together to share knowledge, experience, and resources. The Coalition will also work to achieve positive lines of communication, not only between ourselves, but also with our County, State, and Federal elected representatives for the accomplishment of mutual projects and goals. The first organizational meeting was held on November 19th, and the cities represented included Oak Leaf, Ovilla, Glenn Heights, Pecan Hill, Palmer, Ferris, and Red Oak. This Coalition may have a significant and successful impact as we would be speaking collectively on behalf of nearly 40,000 citizens. More information will be made available about the Coalition as its organization develops.

The City Budget is available for viewing on-line at the city's website. We are currently projecting receiving an income of \$438,631 and have projected spending \$433,606. Budget income projections factored in the reduction of new home construction; which has fallen from 21 new houses in 2004 to 3 new houses in 2009. Hopefully the economy will recover soon, and things will improve for not only each of us, but for the city as well.

On December 14th, the city will initiate testing of a new communication system: Blackboard Connect. Please refer to the enclosed copy of the Press Release for additional details.

In conclusion, I would like to extend a great big thank you to our city employees ... City Secretary, Ronda Quintana, and Assistant Secretary and Court Clerk, Patty Ellis. Both work together well and each has been a tremendous asset to our city's day-to-day operation.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

City Hall will be closed:



Thursday and Friday,
December 24 & 25
for the Christmas
Holidays

Friday, January 1st
for New Year's Day

Monday, January 18
for Martin Luther
King Day

Friday, April 2 for
Easter

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DOG REGISTRATION CHANGES**Registration:**

Neutered/Spayed (altered) animals	\$5.00
Non-altered animals	\$10.00
Therapy/Service animals	No Fee
(However, the owner must provide therapy/service registration certificate and a certificate of vaccination.)	
Lost tag (reissue)	\$5.00



Help me
be good.

Late Registration:

For animals not registered within 60 days of residency or for failure to renew registration within 30 days of renewal date, owners will be subjected to a fine of ten dollars (\$10.00) per animal. They may be given ten (10) working days to secure registration after which time the fine may be twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) per month per animal.

Planning for Special Needs in an EMERGENCY

Older Texans, Very Young Texans, Disabled Texans and Pets all have special considerations in an emergency.

1. Mobility needs (walker, stroller, etc...)
2. Insurance Card, complete medical information/history.
3. Rabies shot records for your pet.
4. Leash or some type of restraint for your pet.
5. Special foods.
6. Have a list of your neighbors, friends and/or family members' numbers that can assist if necessary in evacuation.
7. Have all medications in one location for that individual OR have a list of all prescriptions for emergency refills.

The last two are in case someone else needs to help you during an emergency.

9-1-1 ADDRESSING REQUIREMENTS

To enable emergency responders (ambulance, fire, police) to find your home in an emergency, the following address marking recommendations may be used as a guideline:

- A. House - 4 inch or larger numbers
- B. Mailbox - 3 inch or larger numbers
- C. Yard Sign - 4 inch or larger numbers

If your mailbox is in front of your house, put **reflective** numbers on both sides of it. If your house is far back from the road, place **reflective** house numbers on the gate or fence where the driveway enters the road. In the event that your mailbox is in a cluster, it is **very** important to mark your house, driveway, fence or gate so you will be quickly located by day or night.

REMEMBER...IN AN EMERGENCY, A QUICK RESPONSE IS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE...SECONDS COUNT IN LIFE OR DEATH SITUATIONS!!!!!!

**April 14**

Received agreement forms for the Locust/Uhl Bridge project and the repair process can now proceed.

May 12

Swearing in of Mayor Pro Tem, Pat Mahlstedt (Place 1) and Councilman Ron Spurlock (Place 2)

June 9

Approval of repairs/resurfacing within the city and the Indian Hills Subdivision's roads

July 14

Approval of changes to Chapter 2, Animal Control

August 6

Budget Workshop – review of the proposed budget, changes to several income and expense items.

August 11

Budget Workshop – Mayor reminds council to review holiday schedule for the coming year.

Regular Meeting – Mayor Alan Hugley explains the purpose of the North Ellis County Cities Partnership and Mayor Klooster indicated Council would discuss the adoption of a coalition resolution at the next Council Meeting.

August 27

Reviewing new ordinance for Wind Energy Systems

September 8

Passed the new 2009-2010 Budget, which you can view on the city website.

October 13 — New ordinance was approved for Wind Energy Systems.

November 10 — Cancelled

HAZARDOUS HOUSEHOLD WASTE DAY

A hazardous household waste drop off day will be scheduled for late spring / early summer. The cost to participate will be \$47.00 per household. More information will be provided as it becomes available. Check the city website for updates.

ACCEPTABLE ITEMS: paint, acids, aerosol cans, antifreeze, batteries, fertilizer, fluorescent light bulbs, pesticides, pool chemicals, solvents and varnish

UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS: ammunition, asbestos, building materials, electronics, medical waste, smoke detectors, tires and TVs



Call DCI for payment plans and discounts.

DCI SANITATION, LLC

(972) 878-0809

Office Hours: 8:00am – 5:00pm
Monday – Friday



**CALL TO
SCHEDULE
ANY AND ALL
BULK PICK-UPS**

Regular Pick-up: Every Thursday

Bundles of tree, shrub, or brush trimmings as well as newspapers and magazines, securely tied together, are also accepted with a limit of two bundles a week per household. The bundles must be less than four feet in length and less than fifty pounds in weight.

Recycling will also be picked up on Thursdays but using a different truck.

MORE CAN BE RECYCLED NOW: all white paper, newspaper, envelopes, cardboard, shredded paper, computer paper, carbon paper, phone books, colored paper, brown folders, glossy paper, index cards, manila folders, junk mail, carbonless forms, magazines, plastics # 1-7, aluminum/tin cans and glass bottles.

All recyclables can be commingled together in the recycle bin.

Bulk Pick-up: Second Thursday of each month

Bulk waste items include, but not limited to stoves, water tanks, washing machines, furniture, four (4) cubic feet of brush not bundled. Always call to verify what is acceptable.

Items **NOT** considered bulk are construction debris, items with Freon in them, dead animals, hazardous waste, or stable matter with weights or volumes greater than those allowed for bins or containers.

NEW

DCI will be scheduling a free battery recycling day during the spring. It will be held at City Hall.

Also, if you have large appliances (including appliances with Freon) to be hauled off, you can contact Johnny

CHRISTMAS TIME-KEEP IT MERRY & SAFE

- ξ Check each set of lights, new or old, for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections.
- ξ When purchasing a live tree, check for freshness. The trunk butt of a fresh tree is sticky with resin, and when tapped on the ground, the tree should not lose many needles.
- ξ Do not place a live tree close to a heat source, including heat vents. Heat source will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks.
- ξ Before using lights outdoors, check labels to be sure they have been certified for outdoor use.
- ξ Plug all outdoor electric decorations into circuits with ground fault circuit interrupters to avoid potential shocks.

IMPORTANT: Never burn your Christmas tree in a fireplace or wood stove. Pines, firs and other evergreens have a high content of flammable turpentine oils. Burning the tree may contribute to creosote buildup and risk a chimney fire.

WAYS TO RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE:

Δ Fish Feeders: A discarded Christmas tree sunk into a private fish pond makes an excellent refuge and feeding area for fish.



Δ Bird Feeders: Place a discarded Christmas tree in the garden or backyard and use it as a bird feeder and sanctuary. Fresh orange slices or strung popcorn will attract the birds and they can sit in the branches for shelter. Eventually the branches will become brittle and you can break the tree apart by hand or chipper.



SUPPORT OUR TROOPS AT CHRISTMAS

Virtual E-cards can be sent to our troops at either website:

<http://ecards.military.com/postcard-direct/>

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



Care packages are appreciated, also, if you don't know someone then this website has addresses of soldiers that would enjoy receiving a package:

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

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

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	972-822-1177
AirCanopy	972-617-8889

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER:

Ellis County Chronicle 972-617-6397

ANIMAL CONTROL:

Call City Hall (M-F / 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 ISD	972-617-2941	
US Post Office	800-275-8777	
Ellis Co. Health Dept	972-825-5200	
PUBLIC ADVERTISING (FREE) {M-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.

