

Oak Leaf News

301 Locust Drive, Oak Leaf, Texas
972/617-2660 FAX 972/617-7108

Web Site: <http://www.oakleaftexas.org>

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October 30, 2008



Mayor's Notes

Greetings!



The weather has cooled down and it's safe to say that Fall has arrived. School activities are in full swing and many parents are busy chauffeuring or simply keeping track of their kids. While travelling back and forth on our neighborhood streets, drive safely and be on the lookout for citizens walking or jogging, and especially children playing outside.

As you read this newsletter, the campaigning for many elected representatives, including our next President, will be drawing to a close. I believe it is safe to say we are looking forward to the conclusion of this election time period. If you did not vote early, please make time to stop by City Hall, a designated polling location, between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. on November 4th.

Since our last newsletter, we have hired a new city secretary; Ronda Quintana. If you visit city hall, you will likely be greeted by Patty Ellis, our assistant city secretary. Both Ronda and Patty have been doing a great job and look forward to providing you friendly, courteous service.

Elsewhere in this newsletter is a summary of city council activities from the first of the year. City Staff and the Council have been busy preparing our budget for the 2008 – 2009 fiscal year. A copy of the final approved budget is available online at www.oakleaftexas.org.

Upon visiting our city's website, you will find answers to many questions. You will find copies of current and past agendas, meeting minutes, current permit forms and data, the code of ordinances, links to other governmental entities, as well as general and city information. In addition to our web site, City Staff is available by calling 972-617-2660.

Grant money was recently approved and work will start in 2009 on the Woodhaven/Meadowbrook and Uhl/Locust bridges. These grant funds will address headwall issues and erosion reduction measures at each location.

Other major projects in 2008-2009 will include drainage ditch work throughout the city, the creation of non-residential zoning and related ordinances, and a flood and drainage study throughout the city.

On behalf of each of the council members and city staff, we appreciate the opportunity to serve you and welcome input.

Paul Klooster

Vote, Vote, Vote

Tuesday, November 4, 2008

Oak Leaf City Hall will be opened from 7am to 7pm for your voting convenience.

Holiday Schedule

City Hall will be closed on Thursday and Friday November 27 and 28 for the Thanksgiving holiday and December 25 and 26 for the Christmas holiday. City Hall will also be closed on Thursday, January 1 for New Year's Day.

Reminder

The sale or discharge of any fireworks within the jurisdiction of Oak Leaf is prohibited.

TXDOT

Texas Department of Transportation Update

IH 35E from Parkerville Road to US 77

A major traffic switch will occur on the weekend of November 15 moving northbound IH 35E traffic to the new northbound lanes. Prior to switching the traffic, the northbound lanes must be completed and to accomplish this it will be necessary to **remove the Northbound temporary exit ramp serving Bear Creek Road and Parkerville Road**. Northbound traffic will be required to exit at Red Oak Road and travel on the Frontage Road to the desired cross street. The temporary exit ramp is scheduled to be taken out of service on **October 30**.

Postal Annex Opens in Ovilla

A post office annex has opened in Ovilla at 711 W. Main Street. The annex will offer the same services and prices found at any post office – plus extended hours of from 7 a.m.-7 p.m. weekdays and from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturdays.

Animals

So, it says here that all dogs need to be registered. And it only costs \$5! I wonder if my owner knows how much this will help me if I wander off or just get lost?



Oak Leaf has a leash law?!
What will they think of next?

If you have any questions, please contact City Hall or check our website www.oakleafatexas.org for changes in City Codes regarding animals (especially horses).

No Worries

As you work around your homestead
And clean out your yard & woodshed,
You no longer have to wait to hear
That cleanup day's just twice a year.
But now you can throw away
At your convenience on the second Thursday.
Bulky items, brush & things
Will all be gone like birds with wings.
DCI Sanitation will take your grime away
And help you have more time to play.

DCI Sanitation, LLC

Residential Collection:

Pickup: Thursdays

Hours: 7am-7pm

Placement: Curbside

Brush & Bulky Items Pick-Up:

Scheduled pick-up – Second Thursday of each month.

Excessively large items –

Please contact DCI Sanitation.

Recycling – will also be picked up on Thursdays.

(All recyclables can be commingled together in the recycle bin).



DCI Sanitation, LLC (972) 878-0809

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

Each ton of recycled paper can save

17 trees, 380 gallons of oil, three cubic

yards of landfill space, 4,000 kilowatts

of energy and 7,000 gallons of water!

Ellis County Free Dump Days!

- Ellis County will be providing free dump days for its citizens. You are welcome to discard anything that can be disposed of in a registered landfill. Freon, car batteries, chemicals, computers, television sets or liquids cannot be accepted. Refrigerators and air-conditions must have the compressor removed.
- Tires are welcome provided the rim has been removed. The maximum size allowed is 22 inches. Tires exceeding this size limit will not be accepted. Limit ten tires per person.
- There is a limited amount of dumpsters at each location, so if these dumpsters are filled before noon, the location will be closed early.

❖ When: **Saturday, November 8, 2008**
Time: 8:00 am to noon *or until the dumpsters are full*
Where: Commissioner Heath Sims' Precinct Barn
933 College Street, Italy, TX 76651

❖ When: **Saturday, December 13, 2008**
Time: 8:00 am to noon *or until the dumpsters are full*
Where: Commissioner Ron Brown's Precinct Barn
1011 Eastgate, Midlothian, TX 76065
For more information call
972-825-5555 or 972-825-5194

Recycling Computer Equipment

The law requires manufacturers offering to sell new computer equipment in or into Texas to provide a program for collecting and recycling of consumers' used computer equipment.

Manufacturers must provide a program by September 1, 2008. Each manufacturer is responsible only for its own brand(s) of computer equipment. The collection and recycling must be convenient and free at the time of recycling. The rules define computer equipment as:

- a monitor,
- a desktop computer or laptop, and
- an accompanying keyboard and mouse made by the same manufacturer.

The manufacturers are required to offer collection and recycling **only for computer equipment purchased primarily for personal or home-business use**—regardless of when it was sold; that is, not just computer equipment purchased after Sept. 1, 2008.

By law, you will be responsible for any confidential information left on the computer equipment.

Close the Loop...Buy Recycled!

Recycled materials are not truly recycled until we reuse them. The materials that we recycle do not truly benefit the environment until a demand is created for them. You can increase the demand by using your purchase power. Be an environmental shopper!

Consumers should check product boxes for the recycle symbol.



COUNCIL ACTION & INFORMATION January 2008-September 2008

January 8

- Meeting was cancelled.

February 12

- Flood Disaster Grant awarded to the City for bridge repairs.

March 11

- Contract with Allied Waste would expire 9/30/08 and the City would need to get competitive bids from other companies.
- New city website up and running.

April 8

- Allied Waste requests rate increase.
- Information regarding Glenn Heights water rate increase sent to lawyer.
- Annual Road Maintenance Project-resurface Red Oak Creek Dr. & North Elm Dr. Also temporary road work in Indian Hills Addition.

May 13

- Guardrail along Hampton between Locust Drive and Red Bud Court needing to be installed.

June 10

- The swearing in of new Councilman, Craig Wilson and new Assistant City Secretary, Patty Ellis.
- Incumbents, Mayor Paul Klooster and Councilman Jim Tuma were also sworn in.

June 18

- Special workshop for 2008-2009 Budget

July 15

- NCTCOG Population Report- As of Jan. 1, 2008, the City of Oak Leaf has 477 households and 1,557 residents.

August 19

- Discussion of new refuse contract
- Discussion of repairs to Woodhaven Bridge

September 9

- Budget for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 passed.
- Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 is voted in with no changes from last year.

September 23

- Selection of new refuse company-four companies bid: Allied Waste, CWD, IESI and DCI Sanitation. All bid for once-a-week pick-up.
- The swearing in of the new City Secretary, Ronda Quintana.

Take Care of Texas Tip

Use Native Plants Around the House

Plants that are native to Texas aren't only beautiful; they typically require less water, pesticides, fertilizers and maintenance—saving you time and money. The deep root systems of many native plants also increase the soil's capacity to store water, reducing runoff. Try out this website for frequently asked questions regarding yard care.

<http://www.yardwise.org/faq.html>

City Burning Regulation

It is AGAINST city code to burn within the city limits except in outdoor grills, fireplaces, campfires, firefighter training or burns that have been approved by the TCEQ.



Camp fire
(GOOD)



Brush fire
(BAD)

Permits

Permits are required for:

new construction	remodeling	additions
demolitions	plumbing	mechanical
electrical work	fences	lawn sprinklers
pools	HVAC	and others

Permits provide for examination of plans prior to construction to assure conformance to building code requirements.

Once construction has begun, inspections must be obtained before covering work, in order to secure compliance with safety standards and uniform building code regulations. Permits and accompanying inspections help assure safe construction with sound material.



Why Are Permits Required?

Your home is an investment. If your construction project does not comply with the codes adopted by the City, the value of your property investment could be reduced. Property insurers may not cover work done without permits and inspections.

Inspections will be required to make certain the work conforms to the permit, building codes and plans. You will have access to the expertise of the building inspector to help you avoid costly mistakes.



Meeting Dates

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
- Bulletin board is located at the front of the municipal building.

ANIMAL CONTROL:

- Call City Hall 972-617-2660

- EMERGENCY: 9-1-1
- POISON CONTROL: 800-816-1100 or 800-222-1222
- ELLIS CO. HEALTH DEPT.: 972-825-5200

- 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

- MISC.:
- Red Oak ISD 972-617-2941
- US Post Office 800-275-8777

- PUBLIC ADVERTISING-FREE (M-Sat/8-10am)
- KBEC 1390 Radio 972-938-1390

City of Oak Leaf
301 Locust Drive
Oak Leaf, Texas 75154-3855

U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 RED OAK, TX
 PERMIT NO. 51
 ZIP CODE 75154