

Oak Leaf News

301 Locust Drive, Oak Leaf, Texas * 972/617-2660 FAX 972/617-7108 * www.oakleaftexas.org

May 1, 2009



Mayor's Notes



Greetings!

Growth in our part of the Metroplex has slowed as has the economy nationwide. After the first six months of our budget year (Oct 1st thru Sept 30th), we have received nearly ninety percent (90%) of projected income and have spent nearly twenty-four percent (24%) of projected expenses. The standard has been in each year of our City's

existence to maintain fiscal responsibility as it relates to a balanced budget, and we will continue to do so. Major expenditures, yet to occur, include work related to drainage issues as well as road re-surfacing.

Interstate 35 improvements are nearly complete, and that is a welcome change to the normal construction zone frustration these past several years. In addition to the work on Interstate 35, TXDOT is preparing for the creation of Loop 9. Public hearings continue in regard to the proposed construction of the "loop". It will circle the Metroplex similar to that accomplished decades ago, first by Loop 12, then later by Interstate 635. For additional information, go to www.loop9.org or www.stoploop9.com.

In 2008 Oak Leaf was awarded two grants for bridge related work. The first grant is from the Office Rural Community Affairs (ORCA) in the amount of \$275,500 for work related to erosion control and headwall construction on the Woodhaven Bridge. The second grant is from Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) in the amount of \$398,000 for similar repairs on the Uhl/Locust Bridge. It is anticipated that the work will be fully completed by the end of 2009. Councilmember Craig Wilson has been a tremendous asset to the city on this project.

From the legal side of the City's operation, the 1987 annexation suit with Glenn Heights remains dormant. Numerous out-of-court attempts to resolve this matter have been unsuccessful. In regards to the lawsuit against the Indian Hills Subdivision developer, it is active and we anticipate the case going to trial by the end of the year.

After numerous years without a municipal court trial, a case was brought against a citizen from Winding Creek Trail in February. The results were favorable to the city, and the nuisance issues were subsequently and quickly resolved.

Legal action by the TCEQ may be forthcoming against the property owner of 907 Lark Lane, due to numerous issues related to underground fuel storage deficiencies. The City is monitoring the progress on this matter and anticipates resolution by the end of the year. The 382nd District Court has also appointed a receiver to sell the property.

Crime in our city has historically been low. Much of that is accomplished by citizens knowing their neighbors and neighborhood. One of our citizens has expressed interest in the resurrection of neighborhood crime watch associations and has written a volunteer article found within this newsletter. In addition, we are researching the possibility of retaining an off-duty peace officer, on a part-time basis, to assist in enforcing city ordinances, such as firework violations.

Paul Klooster

Holiday Schedule

City Hall will be closed:

- Monday, May 25th, to observe Memorial Day
- Friday, July 3rd, to observe Independence Day
- September 7th, to observe Labor Day

911 Addressing

Please make sure your property address is visible from the road so that in an emergency...

**THERE IS
NO
CONFUSION.**



Find the Energy Star, Skip the Tax

During the three-day tax holiday, which runs May 23–25, Texas shoppers get a break from state and local sales taxes when they purchase certain energy-efficient appliances and other household equipment bearing an Energy Star label. More information about the tax holiday is available on the Comptroller's Web site at http://www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/sales/faq_energy_star.html.

We WANT YOU TO VOLUNTEER

Dear Citizens of Oak Leaf,

The Sheriffs Dept. was blown away by the successful turnout we had for our Neighborhood Crime Watch kickoff program.



Deputy Bickerstaff and Deputy Hatcher conducted a very helpful and informative meeting. The deputies mentioned prior to everyone's arrival that if we had a turnout of between 8 to 10 people it would be considered a success. Well, we showed them! We had over 60 people! Thankfully I know everyone left feeling good about the fact we had no reports of recent crime activity in our community. We now need to take our Neighborhood Crime Watch Program to the next phase. The Crime Watch signs have been ordered and will be installed by the County Commissioner's Office, but we need you, our neighbors, to volunteer to be neighborhood captains. It is extremely important we keep our successful turnout moving in the forward direction to insure the safety and quality of life we have all enjoyed here in Oak Leaf.

Please call me, Diana McBee at 972 576-2919 or

E-mail dlowrance@unitedprocurement.net

I need to plan a volunteer captains meeting in May with Deputy Bickerstaff and Deputy Hatcher to discuss the responsibilities of our captains, so please give me a call if you can serve.



On a lighter note, "Let's Party!" We are looking for a few volunteers to join me to plan community gatherings and social outings like Spring Fling, Bar-B-Q's, Fall Festivals and maybe Christmas Caroling Hay Rides and more. If you enjoy a good get-together, please give me a call at the above numbers. Remember "It Takes You" to keep our community strong. ***Volunteer!***

Flag Ceremony

Saturday, June 27, 2009

The Boy Scouts will be performing a flag ceremony for the City's worn U. S. Flags. All citizens are invited to watch this solemn ceremony, and there will be some citizen participation. Watch for more information on our website.

NEW Permit Forms

Check out the City's website for the new permits and city codes. Protect your most valuable investment. A permit will get you a licensed building inspector that will make sure the job being done is done right!

Animals



It's not my fault I'm not registered!?!

Registration is only \$5 for altered pets or \$10 for unaltered pets.

DCI Sanitation, LLC

Residential Trash and Recyclable

Collection

Pick-up: Every Thursday

Place & Time: Your curbside by 7a.m.

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



Bulk Item Thursdays

Pick-up: Second Thursday of each month along with regularly scheduled trash pick-up.

Bulk waste items include stoves, water tanks, washing machines, furniture and other waste materials.

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.

Note: If bulk items are out on other Thursdays, you may be charged extra. Call to schedule ANY and ALL bulk pick-ups.

DCI Sanitation, LLC (972) 878-0809

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

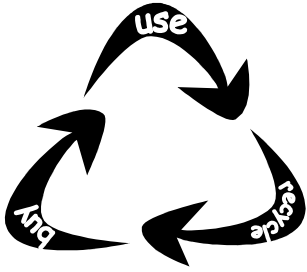
Recycle Your Freon Items

Items with Freon must be handled by a certified removal specialist. For free pick-up, call Ed at...

972-896-1569

U Can Fix It Appliance Parts
Waxahachie, TX 75165

Complete the Cycle



Ellis County Free Dump Days!

3rd Free "Dump Day" being offered by County

The County's next free dump day for Ellis County residents is scheduled for Saturday, May 9th. The location for this event will be in the Maypearl area on Hoyt Rd. (across from the closed SSC facility). As your spring cleaning is well underway, take advantage of the chance to dispose of trash, furniture, mattresses, yard debris, tires, and car batteries. Please note the following:

- Passenger tires without rims (maximum of 10)
Tractor tires are not allowed.
- LATEX paint – O.K. as long as you fill up the unused portion of the can with kitty litter to soak up the liquid. Put lid back on can securely.
- No Freon, chemicals, or other liquids.

Hours: 8:00 to Noon...OR
UNTIL DUMPSTERS ARE FULL

For more information...or any other disposal or recycling questions you may have,
Please call:
972-825-5555 or 972-825-5194

Drainage Project

The City has hired the Precinct 4 County Commissioner's work crew to deal with, in some cases, decades of drainage issues throughout the city. Activity related to the project should start within the next forty-five (45) days. If work is planned for your property, you will be contacted in advance by the city and given details concerning the work to be performed. At the conclusion of the project, the City will have hydro mulch grass seed applied to reduce, and hopefully eliminate, any erosion. Councilmember Jim Tuma will be the liaison between the citizens and the contractor's work crew.

2007-2008 Fiscal Year Audit

City received notification of full compliance with no deficiencies. The annual audit is required by the State and each year as more and more requirements are added, the audit cost is increased. The 2008-2009 fee is projected to be \$4000.00.

Reminder

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



PROHIBITED.



What goes up must come down!

When Wildfire Occurs and If There is Time, Homeowners Should:

- Close or cover outside attic eaves. This will reduce the possibility of sparks blowing into hidden areas within the house.
- Shut off gas at meter or at propane tank.
- Close all doors inside the house to block circulation of air and movement of fire.
- Turn ON all exterior lights. This will make the house visible in heavy smoke or at night.
DO NOT JEOPARDIZE YOUR LIFE!
NO MATERIAL ITEM IS WORTH A LIFE. CONDITIONS IN A WILDFIRE CAN CHANGE VERY QUICKLY.

Election Information

The May 9th City of Oak Leaf Election regarding Place 1, Place 2, and Place 3 has been cancelled. The incumbent council member positions were not contested; therefore, Pat Mahlstedt, Ron Spurlock and Ray Brindle will be sworn-in at the May Council Meeting. As a result of the election being cancelled, the City was able to retain an estimated amount of \$1800.00.

COUNCIL ACTION & INFORMATION October 2008-March 2009



October 14

- Getting bids from engineering firms to repair Woodhaven Bridge with grant funds.

November 11

- Adoption of 2006 International Codes.

December 9

- Voided

January 13

- New Municipal Court Judge, Bob Carroll, is sworn into office along with Prosecuting Attorney R. P. Ramsey.

February 10

- Verifying grant for the Locust/Uhl Bridge. Corrections to repair plans on Wood Haven Bridge approved.

March 10

- Looking into cleaning bar ditches to help with drainage throughout the city.

Municipal Court

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



Trivia

Only one percent of all water on the planet is available for humans. Buy water efficient fixtures and products!

City Hall 972-617-2660
City Hall Fax 972-617-7108



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 (between 8a.m.- 4p.m.)	972-617-2660
Weekend & Nights.....	972-937-6060

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/8-10a.m.}

KBEC 1390 Radio 972-938-1390

City of Oak Leaf
301 Locust Drive
Oak Leaf, TX 75154

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