

# OAK LEAF NEWS

Spring/Summer 2010

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



## MAYOR'S MEMO

As warmer weather months quickly approach, outdoor activities will likewise. As you walk, jog, or ride a bicycle around your neighborhood be watchful for anything that may be out of

place. Take a minute to greet your neighbors and be proactive in making our city a great place to live and raise a family.

The warm weather can also bring violent storms to our area. Make sure you and your family are ready for such events. The Red Cross division for Ellis and Navarro Counties recommends three steps for preparedness. Get an emergency kit together, have an emergency plan, and stay informed about what is happening. Items for the kit and other helpful information can be found by visiting [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org). Remember, it is not a matter of if an emergency situation will happen; it is when will it happen.

The Uhl Bridge and Woodhaven Bridge projects to address headwall and erosion reduction issues at each location were completed towards the end of 2009. They have proven very beneficial during the last few months of rain. The city is also considering the replacement/repairing of the Woodhaven Bridge due to its age. The Texas Department of Transportation has sent notification that the bridge is eligible for replacement under the Off-State System Federal-Aid Replacement and Rehabilitation Program. If the city chooses to participate in the program, the Federal Highway Administration will provide 80% of the funding, TXDOT will provide at least 10% and the city will be responsible for the remaining 10%. The estimated cost to replace the bridge is \$713,490.77. The city's expense would be around \$71,349.08.

In February, the City of Oak Leaf became a member of the North Ellis County Coalition of Cities (NECCC) for the purpose of sharing knowledge, experience, and resources. The NECCC's objective is to create positive lines of communication, not only between the member cities, but also with county, state, and federal elected representatives to accomplish mutual projects and goals. The member cities include Oak Leaf, Ovilla, Glenn Heights, Pecan Hill, Palmer, Ferris, and Red Oak. The Coalition will be speaking collectively on behalf of nearly 40,000 citizens.

In addition, the city-wide drainage project will be starting in the next couple of months. If there is drainage work to be done on your property(s), a member of City Council will personally inform you of the corrective measures to be made. When appropriate, City Staff will send out messages using the ConnectCTY communications service, if work will affect a particular area. On behalf of each council member and City Staff, we welcome your input.

Last winter our roads suffered weeks of cold wet weather conditions that lead to numerous pot holes throughout the city. In an effort to improve on the road repairing process, City Council asked for proposals to be submitted using the specifications given to each company. The council members then accepted a proposal from Pavcon, Ltd., and the work was completed on May 13th. The Council is also researching its options for a long-term solution to the road performance problem. More information will be available in the coming months.

**FREE Mulch**  
At City Hall

## HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

City Hall will be closed:



Monday,  
May 31st, for  
Memorial Day  
Monday,  
July 5th, for  
Independent Day  
Monday,  
September 6th,  
for Labor Day

## INSIDE ISSUE:

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## NEW ORDINANCE 1002

P.O.D.S. containers are now considered accessory buildings. The definition is as follows:

*Portable Storage Containers.* Portable storage containers, including overseas shipping containers, cargo or freight containers, PODS “Portable On Demand Storage”, and PSU’s “Portable Storage Units”.

Residents of Oak Leaf are allowed two (2) accessory buildings per property. Permits are required for P.O.D.S. containers. For more information, please contact City Hall.

### Citizens Of Oak Leaf

City Council is asking for your help. Each month we would like to recognize Oak Leaf citizens for their accomplishments or activities that make them outstanding individuals. In the past, recognition has been given to a photography contest finalist, graduates, and extra helpful neighbors.

We need you to 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 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.



#### December 8

507 Little Creek is owned and maintained by Ellis County.

#### January 12

Erosion control projects at Uhl/Locust & Woodhaven Bridges were completed in December.

#### February 9

Resolution 1001 supporting the North Ellis County Coalition of Cities was approved.

#### March 9

Ordinance 1002 regarding P.O.D.S. containers as accessory buildings on property in Oak Leaf was approved.

#### April 13

Ordinance 1004 cancelled General Election and declared unopposed candidates elected.

### RADON— THE ORDERLESS KILLER

Be green from the ground up! Test your home for radon. Radon is a naturally occurring, odorless gas that can seep out of the ground into your home. But as the second leading cause of lung cancer, radon is responsible for over 20,000 deaths a year. Fortunately, a home radon test is easy to do, and homes with high radon levels can be fixed.

<http://www.epa.gov/radon/radontest.html>

### OFF ROAD VEHICLES (4-WHEELERS) Are Illegal!!

The act of operating off-road vehicles on vacant, undeveloped or city controlled property within Oak Leaf and outside the city limits for a distance of one-half (1/2) miles constitutes a public nuisance and is unlawful.

Off road vehicles should never be driven on public streets or thoroughfares, unless they are registered with the State of Texas and roadworthy.

### HAZARDOUS HOUSEHOLD WASTE DAY

On Saturday, **September 25th**, the city will have a hazardous household waste day. There is a cost of \$47.00 per household to participate. 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**

DCI spent twelve days over a three week period picking up debris in Oak Leaf left from the snow storm of the century. They have many other cities that they service but spent the majority of their time hauling away 573 cubic yards of limbs for our city and devoting 290 DCI man hours. Also, the city sponsored two chipper days for residents to bring their limbs for chipping into mulch, which brought in 91 truck loads and 63 trailer loads of debris.



## HELPFUL HINTS FOR SEPTIC TANKS

The following suggestions are designed to increase the useful life of your septic system. Their applicability and effectiveness vary slightly with each home. The less wastewater you produce, the less the soil will have to absorb. Water conservation is the cheapest and easiest way to protect your septic system.

1. Repair leaky fixtures.
2. Wash clothes only when you have a full load. Avoid doing several loads in one day. Most septic systems can handle an average of three to four loads per week.
3. Take short showers instead of baths or install a flow reducer nozzle.
4. Use a water displacer in your toilet tank or replace your existing toilet with a high-efficiency toilet.
5. Turn off water while washing teeth, hands, vegetables, dishes, etc. Use a stopper in basin.
6. Wait until the dishwasher is full to run it.
7. Minimize or avoid using the garbage disposal unit. Place scraps in the garbage or properly compost them.
8. Collect grease in a container rather than pouring it down a sink drain.
9. Never flush non-degradable paper items (disposable diapers, sanitary napkins, tampons and Kleenex), kitty litter, paper towels, cotton swabs, cigarette butts or coffee grounds, because they can clog and potentially damage septic system components if they become trapped.
10. Use a good quality approved toilet tissue that breaks up easily when wet.
11. Ordinary use of household chemicals will not affect the bacteria in your system unless used in excessive amounts. However, gasoline, oil, pesticides, antifreeze, and paint can stress the bacteria in your system and might contaminate surface waters and groundwater.
12. Septic tank additives, chemicals, yeast, bacteria, enzymes, etc, increase the bacterial break down of solids in the tank and will affect (increase) the time needed between routine pumping. However, they have not proven reliable in removing clogs.

13. Clean out septic tanks every 3 to 5 years (if needed).
14. Never attempt to open a septic tank yourself. Gases and bacteria in it are dangerous.
15. Plant only grass over your septic system. Trees (especially willow trees) should be kept at least 100 feet away from the septic system to discourage root damage.
16. Don't drive or park vehicles on any part of your septic system. Doing so can compact the soil in your drain field or damage the pipes, tank, or other septic system components.
17. Keep roof drains, and other rainwater or surface water drainage systems away from the drain field. Flooding the drain field with excessive water slows down or stops treatment processes and can cause plumbing fixtures to back up.

## HAVE A PEST?

Britton's Pest Control out of Duncanville can help with bees and snakes. Call 972-572-2332

## REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

Find ways to use some items in a different way, so that less is being throw away.



Cut and use as scoop for pet food, weed killers, etc...



Used cans are great for starting new plants or creating art.



Milk cartons make birdfeeders and bird-houses and can be tossed at the end of summer.



**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                | 866-551-1367      |
| 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.**

Little Creek Estates Summer Hill Estates Oak Leaf Farms  
Oak Leaf Meadows

**OVILLA FIRE DEPT.**

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.*

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

