

News from Woodcreek City Hall

Fall, 2009



“There’s No Substitute for Communication”

This is the first of what your Woodcreek City Council plans as a quarterly newsletter to keep you better informed about issues, activities, and events in your city. Not all of our citizens have e-mail or receive the local paper, yet all of us benefit with increased communication. That, in a nutshell, is the reasoning behind the newsletter.

Driving through the city, it is very evident what the current drought and watering restrictions have done to our neighborhood. Lawns are brown, trees are under stress, and flowers have given way to mulch and little more. The same is true throughout the Wimberley Valley. The Council would like to thank all of you who are doing their best to conserve water and maintain their shrubs and garden plants. We know that it has been a challenge. The recent rains have given us a slight respite from the very dry summer.

Still another consequence of the harsh environment is the overall picture of the neighborhood that is revealed when the heat takes its toll. In an indirect but nonetheless important way, the loss of *green* and the subsequent *tanning* of the earth has focused our eyes on an increasing number of problems in our community. Instead of being softened by green lawns, rich vegetation, and beautiful flowers, some stark realities are emerging. Numerous utility trailers, recreational vehicles and the like are being parked in driveways. Automobiles and trucks are appearing on front lawns, side yards and open lots. Other properties are reflecting an abundance of outside storage of items of all sorts.

In light of an increasing number of complaints, along with the reality of the situation, your City Council once again reminds the citizens that there are several city ordinances that are important to consider. For example, the parking of buses, commercial vehicles, trailers, boats, motor homes, RVs, campers, jet skis

and the like is prohibited except on a temporary basis (temporary is defined as not exceeding five days in any thirty-day period. Similarly, vehicles are not to be parked on street right-of-ways, in front or side yards, or in open lots (apart from potential visual pollution, consider the safety hazard attendant to parking a vehicle on top of dry grass). (Zoning Ordinance 00-650, Section 22.f). Finally, the open storage of equipment, containers, debris, refuse, etc. is prohibited under the terms of the health and sanitation ordinance. (Health and Sanitation Ordinance 09-122, Section 6)

We ask all citizens to conduct a mental review in light of the ordinances we have mentioned. You may obtain copies of relevant ordinances at City Hall or from the City Website (www.cityofwoodcreek.com). Apart from the matter of potential ordinance violation, there is also the matter of being a good neighbor — asking yourself if your property might be a source of visual pollution to the larger environment.

The New Entrance Area

The TxDOT portion of the Woodcreek Drive entrance renovation and re-alignment project at Ranch Road 12 has been completed. The 90 day guarantee period by the planting Contractor began on August, 7th.

The City of Woodcreek has engaged American Youth Works, a non-profit organization, that is installing the walking trail, tree wells and dry creek bed from Champions Circle along Woodcreek Drive to the edge of RR-12. In the process, existing river rock and boulders from the old entrance are being incorporated into the new features. All this work is being done on the south side of our entrance and falls within the budget allocated for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. Once completed, work will begin on the north side of the entrance in the spring of 2010.

Nan Simpson, our Landscaping Committee Chair, has done a wonderful job in developing a landscaping plan for the new entrance and following the progress as we move from design to reality.

Residents who want to view the overall design are encouraged to drop by City Hall and take a look at the plans.

Municipal Court

We are very close to having our Municipal Court fully operational. We now have a Municipal Court Clerk and the Council recently adopted four ordinances that will strengthen the court and its capabilities. The Municipal Court Clerk attended training in early September. The court is now fully functional and ready to proceed.

Street Repair

The 2008 – 2009 contract for street repairs has been completed on most street segments within the City. Other segments are on hold until the utilities have been reburied to the proper depth. Many thanks to Frank Wood, our Public Works Director, for his continued efforts to improve the looks of our fine City. If you see Frank out and about in his white pick-up with the flashing yellow light, stop and thank him for the work that he is doing. Also, feel free to let Frank know about any street-related concerns that you may have.

Tree Trimming

Please remember that a no charge Tree Trimming Permit is required prior to pruning, trimming or removal of any tree. The free Tree Trimming Permit must be completed and submitted to City Hall prior to work beginning. Any trimming or pruning of Oak Trees must include the painting of wounds with an opaque paint to help prevent the spread of Oak Wilt. Trimming of Oak Trees is prohibited from the beginning of January through the end of May.

E-mail

The City of Woodcreek routinely sends out important information and City Council Agendas to citizens who have signed up through the City's Website. If you are not receiving these e-mails, please sign up at:

www.cityofwoodcreek.com.

Emergency Coordination

Do you know what to do or where to go in the event of an emergency such as a wildfire or flood in our area? We've been extremely lucky that we have not had an occurrence as of yet, but we need to be prepared. The Mayor and several City Council members have been meeting with the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Hays County Sheriff's Office, Wimberley EMS, Wimberley Volunteer Fire Department, County Officials, and business owners in the Wimberley Valley to develop a strategic plan that can be implemented when any emergency occurs. As these plans are developed and formalized, the information will be distributed to residents in the City of Woodcreek.

Comprehensive Plan Review

By mid September, we had received applications from enough volunteers to form the committee that will review and update the City's Vision 20/20 Master Plan. This is a very important document because it provides for the development of the City over the next five years. The Committee is comprised of residents of the City, business owners and a member of the development community. These committee members will be meeting over the next several months. One of the first tasks will be the development of a community survey to obtain citizen input. The survey findings will be used to formulate the goals, objectives and final recommendations. The committee will provide periodic progress reports to the Council.

Our Furry Friends

Citizens are reminded that the City of Woodcreek has an ordinance that requires all dogs to be under the control of their owners at all times. Dogs are not allowed to run off leash. Citizens that are walking their dogs are requested to pick up their pet's "deposits" and dispose of them responsibly. It is not fair to ask your neighbors to pick up after your pet. It is also in violation of the City's Animal Control Ordinance #85-19C, Section 2.5. Those who already observe this practice are to be congratulated for their

efforts. We have also had several complaints of plastic bags containing “deposits” that were left on empty lots. This is not only unsanitary, but is very unsightly. Please make the effort to keep our city looking its best and bring these “deposits” home for appropriate disposal.

We have to remember that we are a small city and are not able to fund “large city” services such as litter control and law enforcement services.

Traffic Enforcement

Traffic safety within the city limits is a major concern to us all. City Hall has received a lot of complaints lately about speeding on Woodcreek Drive, Champions Circle, Brookhollow Drive and Brookmeadow Drive. Incidents of speeding should be directed to the Sheriff’s office or the Constables office. Since we do not have shoulders on our streets, the Sheriff’s and Constable’s Offices have requested that the City submit a list of homeowners that would be willing to allow law enforcement vehicles to utilize their driveways for parking and/or turnaround spots for conducting speed monitoring and ticketing operations. If you would be willing to allow their vehicles to utilize your driveway as a potential location for a monitoring site, please contact City Hall and provide your name, street address and phone number to the City Administrator or the City Clerk. We will forward this information on to both agencies for their information and use.

Golf Carts on City Streets

Residents are reminded that privately owned golf carts driven by children are not to be used for joy riding on the City’s streets. **Privately owned golf carts are to be used for going to and from the Golf Course only.** City Hall has received many complaints about this issue and has contacted the Sheriff’s office when we have observed children driving a golf cart on the street. If our residents witness children in golf carts unaccompanied by an adult, they are requested to report it to the Sheriff’s office or the Constable’s office for further action. The Sheriff’s office has stated that kids joy riding on golf carts and 4-wheelers is a prime concern to them county wide. Two fatalities and numerous injuries have occurred. If stopped, the children will be escorted home and parents issued a ticket. If the driver is over the age of 16, the driver will be issued a ticket. If there are repeat offenses, the golf cart will be impounded. Safety of our citizens is of prime

concern and parents are requested to see that unauthorized use of golf carts by unlicensed children is stopped.

Woodcreek’s 25th Anniversary

Come and celebrate Woodcreek’s 25th Anniversary of Incorporation. The celebration will be held in “The Above Par Grille” at the Quicksand Golf Course on Tuesday evening, October 27th from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. Come and join your Mayor, current City Council and former City officials so we can reflect on where we have come in the past 25 years and where we will be going in the future. Soft beverages and lots of finger foods will be served. A cash bar will be available.



From Your Mayor and Council Members

City Administrator Pieter Sybesma has been working tirelessly to keep City Hall operating in a formal and organized manner. We congratulate him for doing a fine job. He is an asset to the City — well qualified and focused on doing the best for our community. Financial Coordinator Amy Bell is also serving as our Municipal Court Clerk. The Council has appointed a new City Treasurer, Gene Golembiewski. Many thanks and kudos to Tom Gill for stewardship of the City's finances and his many contributions as our former City Treasurer.

As we move forward, the City continues to have a need for residents to serve on citizen's committees. Please contact City Hall if you are interested in serving on any committees.

Keep the faith; we've had some rain; our community is becoming green once again. We thank all of our residents for your help and support in making Woodcreek a better and more beautiful place to call home.

Mayor Eric C. Eskelund

Mayor Pro-Tem Sally Caldwell, PhD.

Councilmembers: Melinda Gumbert, Kay Henderson, Brent Pulley, and Jeff Rasco