

News from Woodcreek City Hall

Winter 2009 – Spring 2010



City Hall Hours: Monday – Friday, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

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“Stand Up and Be Counted”

As the 2010 Census approaches, each household within the City will be receiving a form to be completed and mailed back to the census bureau. As mandated by the U.S. Constitution, every person in the United States must be counted; both citizens and non-citizens. Data from this national count determines key funding and government representation decisions. Every year the federal government distributes more than \$400 billion to state, local and tribal governments; funding that is used for new roads, schools, hospitals and to enhance important community programs. As members of this community and the communities in which we reside and work, each of us has a lot at stake as we prepare to complete the 2010 Census Form. The census data can be used by the City to apply for grants that can be used fund programs and initiatives that are important to our community. Census data also gives us a voice in Congress as this data is used to determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The 2010 Census form is the shortest form in census history, containing only 10 questions and taking no more than 10 minutes to complete. By law the U.S. Census Bureau cannot share this information with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities. Please help us to make this the most accurate census ever by completing and mailing back the form and encouraging your family and neighbors to do the same. If you do not mail back or receive the census form by the April 1 deadline, a door to door canvassing of the area will be made by a census taker. The Census Bureau provides the census taker with a binder containing all of the addresses that didn't send back a filled out census form. If no one answers at a particular residence, a census taker will visit that home up to three times, each time leaving a door hanger featuring a phone number; residents can call the number on the hanger to schedule the visit. The census taker will ONLY ask the questions that appear on the census form. The census taker will be identified by the official Census Bureau I.D. credentials, so don't hesitate to ask for them if not displayed when they call at your residence.

Vision 2020 Masterplan Update

As part of the City of Woodcreek’s Comprehensive Plan Update process, the Vision 2020 Committee presented the proposed survey document to Council for approval at the February 10th Council meeting. By now you may have received the survey which was mailed out to all registered voters who reside in the City on February 26th. In order to assure objectivity and anonymity, all responses will be collected and processed by the Texas State University Department of Sociology. Your attitudes and opinions are important to the planning process as the results will assist in providing a road map to the direction that the City will go over the next five years. In order to meet the deadline for the Plan Update, all responses must be received by April 1, 2010. A postage paid business reply envelope will be enclosed for your convenience in responding. Please do not place your name address or any other identifying information on the survey document or the return envelope. Once you receive the questionnaire, if you have any questions about the survey please contact City Hall at 847-9390 or the Texas State Department of Sociology at (512) 245-2113. In advance of your reply, the City Council and the Comprehensive Plan Update Committee thank you for your willingness to participate in this important community effort.

Garage Sales

Spring approaches and so will the beginning of garage sales. Residents are reminded that signs for such events are not allowed on City property or on City right of ways and will be removed. Only Signs on private property, the site of the

garage sale, are allowed for the event. (Sign Ordinance #08-118)

Statistical Report of Complaints

Within the City of Woodcreek a total of 48 complaints were received by City Hall for the 2009 calendar year. They were categorized as follows:

Category	No.	% of Total
Parking	23	48
Trash / Debris	12	25
Tree Trim w/o Permit	5	10
Sign Violation	2	5
Other	6	12
Total	48	100%

Fourteen complaints were received in the first quarter, twenty-one in the second quarter with five and eight received in the third and fourth quarters respectively. Seven were resolved via City Hall notification. ATIS, the City’s inspection contractor, investigated thirty four of the complaints and found that thirty were in violation of City ordinances. No violations were found for the remaining four. The cost to the City for these inspection services totaled \$1,530.00 (\$45.00 per inspection). Of the Forty-eight complaints received, eleven occurred on Woodcreek Drive, seven on Brookhollow Drive with the remainder evenly distributed throughout the rest of the City.

Street Repairs

The 2008 – 2009 contract for street repairs has been completed. At the February Council meeting your Council approved the submittal of an interlocal agreement for street maintenance for emergency repairs to the Hays County Commissioners Court for acceptance. This agreement is now with the County Attorney's office for concurrence. Once this agreement is executed, the City will be able to have emergency street repairs made without having to wait for our annual repair contract to be let. In the interim we are reviewing the five year street maintenance plan for current repair needs to see if any of the priorities need to be shifted due to the latest series of rain events we have experienced. To expedite the repair process and mitigate the delays experienced during last year's maintenance contract, the City will issue a contract to locate (Pot Hole) underground utilities to ensure proper burial depth prior to street reconstruction. If utilities are found to be too shallow, we will be able to have them buried to the proper depth. This will allow for a more efficient work flow for the paving contractor later this summer and fall.

Tree Trimming

Please be aware that trimming of any variety of oak trees within the City is prohibited by City Ordinance 05-92A during the period from January through May. Trimming of other varieties of trees is allowed year round. A no-cost permit is required for any tree trimming and is available from City Hall. Removal of dead or diseased trees is allowed at any time with a permit being issued and must be disposed of as recommended by the Texas Forest Service.

Construction Hours Ordinance

At the February Council Meeting your Council approved and adopted Ordinance 10-136 which sets the allowable working hours for all newly permitted construction and landscaping activities within the City limits. Specifically, the allowable working hours are from 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Monday through Saturday. Work outside these hours, such as pouring and finishing of concrete, may be allowed on a limited basis with prior approval from the City.

Traffic Safety

To date we have had 10 to 15 residents provide their names and addresses to us for submittal to the Hays County Sheriff and Constable offices for locations that may be used for parking of County patrol vehicles during traffic speed monitoring activities. If you are experiencing speeding on your street and would like to volunteer your driveway as a place for the Sheriff or Constable to use during one of these exercises, please submit your name to City Hall and we will pass the information on to the appropriate authorities.

Free Mulch

With spring approaching there is a large amount of free mulch stored behind City Hall available for use by all City residents. There are two grades (coarse and medium). If you are planning to spruce up your yard, please consider having your yard contractor utilize this resource for mulch and save yourself some money in the process.

From Your Mayor and Council Members

For informational purposes, the City maintains a website calendar where the community may view how your City Hall is utilized. Go to www.CityofWoodcreek.com and click on the City Events Calendar link located in the “How do I find” box at the upper left hand side of the home page. This calendar not only includes regular Council functions, but community and Valley area groups that are pertinent to the City of Woodcreek. City Hall council chambers are available to all of our residents for your use. If you would like to reserve the chambers for a function, please contact City Hall and make a reservation or you may make your reservation online through the City’s website. City Ordinances are also posted on the website for information. Just click on the City Ordinances link in the “How do I find” box. In closing, periodically check the City’s website for articles from our Landscaping Chairwoman , Nan Simson, for tips on how proper pruning of your shrubs will beautify your home landscaping.

Eric C. Eskelund, Mayor

Mayor Pro-Tem Sally Caldwell, PhD.

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

The City of Woodcreek
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