

City of Woodcreek

January 2008

City Hall Hours:
9:00 am – 4:00 pm
Tues., Wed., Thurs.

Phone: 847-9390
Fax: 847-6661

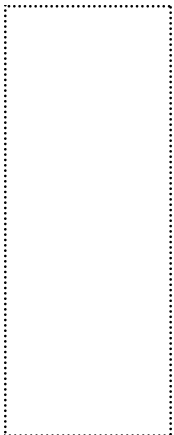
Web Site
cityofwoodcreek.com

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Woodcreek, TX

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Dear Citizens,

As we look back on the last year we are proud of the accomplishments of your City Council in conducting the business of the city with good government as its primary goal. From the Mayor's Office we are pleased to make this report of activities as we begin the New Year.

To administer the business of the City, the City Council has created standing Council Committees to serve you and promote accountability in performance of the responsibilities of the Mayor and the City Council. Each Council member Chairs a specific committee and utilizes their expertise and specialized work experience to help the Council reach its objectives.

You will find reports from the Council Members as chair of the standing committees in this newsletter and future additions will update you on progress in 2008.

We are pleased to report that we have a new City Secretary, Linnea Bailey, who along with the mayor, is responsible for the day to day operations of the City Hall. Linnea comes to us with many years of experience working in the public and private sectors and also is experienced in finance and accounting.

We invite you to come to visit your City Hall, join us for a cup of coffee.

Gloria Whitehead
Mayor of Woodcreek

Information Page

Utility Provider	Company	Telephone
Water/Sewer	AquaTexas	877-987-2782
Electric	PEC Kyle	888-554-4732
Telephone	Verizon	800-483-4000
Cable	TimeWarner	800-418-8848
Waste/Recycling	IESI	830-401-4209

City Hall Contact List

E-mail Addresses

Mayor Gloria Whitehead	Mayor-Woodcreek@austin.rr.com
Mayor Pro Tem Sally Caldwell	caldwellcouncil@gmail.com
Council Member Eric Eskelund	eskelund_woodcreek@austin.rr.com
Council Member Melinda Gumbert	mgumbert@austin.rr.com
Council Member Jane Little	jlittle612@austin.rr.com
Council Member Jeff Rasco	rasco-woodcreek@austin.rr.com
City Treasurer Tom Gill	tfgill@austin.rr.com
Public Works Dir. Frank Wood	fwood67@yahoo.com
City Secretary Linnea Bailey	citywoodcreek@yahoo.com

Did you know

. . . there is no charge to Residents of Woodcreek for use of City Hall for small group meetings.

. . . the City has an information sheet on "Grinder Pumps" and sources for maintenance and repair.

. . . that the mulch/chips behind City Hall are free to Woodcreek Residents.

Contact City Secretary for more information

City Treasury Strong

Financial Year 2006-2007: The City of Woodcreek closed its financial year of 2006 – 2007 with total assets of \$567,258.45. This is an increase in assets of \$124,730.87 from the prior year. The increase is mostly due to higher revenues in state sales taxes and franchise fees, along with lower expenses. We ended the year with a bank balance of \$49,939.29 and an investment account of \$339,496.95.

Upcoming Year 2007-2008 Last year's strong showing places the City in a good position for budget year of 2007 – 2008. The budget approved by the City Council has increased expenditures for street maintenance, street signage, improved office equipment and other items to the city's advantage. Some of these increased expenditures will require using a small amount of our investment dollars (\$45,000) but will make significant improvements to the city, particularly in the area of road improvements.

Tom Gill, City Treasurer

City Hall: A New Attitude

At the October 14th City Council meeting, Linnea Bailey was given the Job of City Secretary. The position was a perfect fit to her education, experience and attitude. City Hall hours were reduced to 28 per week (2/3 time) with office hours on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Reduced hours required greater efficiency gained through updated the computer and communications systems.

The new directive from the Mayor and the City Council is a focus on service to the citizens of Woodcreek. Inquiries about issues, information, problems and suggestions should begin with a call to City Hall at 847-9390. Ms. Bailey stated that "if there's a new face on City Hall, I plan to do my part with a smile and a sincere voice that says 'how can I help?'"

Linnea Bailey, City Secretary

Did you know . . .

. . . If you want to adopt a pet, ARF is located in Woodcreek and can be reached at 847-2878. If you lose or find a pet call AFR or City Hall.



If you have a pet, be pet-responsible. Dogs are not allowed to run free in the City of Woodcreek, and must be on a leash or under direct control. Owners are responsible for picking up all solid waste when walking their pets.

Ordinances Protect Quality of Life/Property Values

Amendments were made to the Woodcreek Water Quality Protection ordinance in an effort to further clarify water quality standards as they relate to development inside our city limits, as well as within or Extra Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ). Woodcreek residents should be proud to know that our Water Quality Protection ordinance is often referenced by citizens and officials throughout the area as a significant, model ordinance and one that is an important tool for the protection of both water quality and quantity. Additionally, a new sign ordinance was adopted by the Council, one that is both business-friendly, but protective of our visual environment.

Expanding our Resources by Establishing Links to Texas State University

The availability of two Texas State University programs allowed us to markedly expand our resources. The Public Administration Internship program made it possible for us to secure the services of an Intern throughout the fall semester. Additional resources came in the form of a team of students from the Texas State University Department of Geography. Using their skills in the area of Geographic Information Science (GIS) technology, the students produced up-dated zoning maps, as well as a collection of infrastructure maps. It is our goal to continue participation in the Internship program on a year-round basis.

Mayor Pro Tem Sally Caldwell

Chair-Planning, Subdivision Controls, Annexation



Vince LaRocca Steps Down

The city extends its heartfelt thanks to one of our most active volunteers. Vince LaRocca chaired the Beautification Committee from 1997-2007, leading a group of volunteers responsible for sprucing up our entrance and other common areas, holiday decorations, mowing right-of-ways, and much more.

"I want to thank all of the wonderful volunteers who have served and worked with me on our city Beautification Committee," said LaRocca. "We have accomplished much over the last 10 years, giving our community a more updated and pleasing look. I have sincerely enjoyed working with each of the volunteers over the years."

The city is forming its new Beautification committee with a new chair at a critical time. We will be getting a much needed traffic light at RR 12, including a total reconfiguration of the Woodcreek Drive entrance.

Councilmember Melinda Gumbert

Chair-Community, Environment & Recreation

Traffic Safety in Woodcreek

The most persistent challenge regarding traffic safety in our community continues to be vehicles exceeding the posted speed limit of 25 MPH. Citizens can help by observing the speed limit at all times. Many of our citizens enjoy walking and jogging in the community and their safety is of the utmost importance. If your street seems to be experiencing speeding vehicles, the Speedminder (a portable radar unit) can be utilized to provide feedback to the drivers. Contact City Hall at 847-8390 and leave a message for Council Member Jane Little.



In addition, the Hays County Sheriffs' Department and the Hays County Precinct 3 Constable's Office conduct traffic patrols in the city of Woodcreek. Our contact with the Hays County Sherriff's Department is Lt. Mark Graves, supervisor for traffic control at 512-393-7381 or mark@co.hays.tx.us. Constable Darrell Ayers can be contacted at 512-847-5532 or Darrell_ayers@co.hays.tx.us. Both agencies are very supportive of our community.

New Woodcreek/RR12 Traffic Light

On December 12, 2007, the Woodcreek City Council choose Alternative #4 submitted by TXDOT and their engineers for the redesign of the intersection at Woodcreek Drive and RR 12. The redesign was necessary to accommodate a new traffic signal that was warranted by the traffic counts at the intersection. Over the past few months, TXDOT officials have provided several alternative designs for the council's review. The alternative chosen will:

1. Close the current right hand turn lane;
2. Provide for construction of a new right turn lane on the north side of the island;
3. Realign the approaches at the Woodcreek Drive; and,
4. Eliminate the outgoing eastbound split at Champion/Deerfield intersection.

Although all of the alternatives presented by TXDOT had pros and cons, it appears that this design best meets the traffic flow and safety features desired by the city. If you wish to review the designs presented by TXDOT, and Alternative #4 chosen by the council, they are available at City Hall. The entry center island will be affected by the redesign, however, TXDOT will provide landscape design for the new entry. If you are interested in joining a committee that will work with the landscape architect to help plan the new entry, please contact Linnea at City Hall at 512-847-9390.

Councilmember Jane Little
Chair-Regulation of Streets and Public Place

Paving the Way to Better City Roads

With the advent of the heavy rains that we incurred this past summer, damage to all of our streets grew exponentially with each shower. Working together with Frank Woods, our Public Works Director, we evaluated the extent of the damage and the effort that would be required for remedial action. A contractor was selected who was the most cost effective fit within the City's budgetary constraints for the fiscal 2006-2007 budget. Ninety five percent (95%) of the work was completed before the end of the City's fiscal year end, with the balance completed in October 2007.

While monitoring the emergency repair work, it became clear that the further one goes from Woodcreek Drive, the poorer the overall condition of the streets including the original base and the existing surfaces. Frank Wood's proposal for a 5 year improvement plan was enthusiastically approved by the City Council in November 2007. The flexibility of the plan allows for realistic implementation and priority adjustment for emergency conditions.

Councilmember Eric Eskelund
Chair-Construction & Repair of Public Facilities/Public Safety Administration

City Website a Hit

The Woodcreek city website is not even a year old, and has already proven to be a tremendous benefit for our citizens and potential future residents. We hope you'll check out www.cityofwoodcreek.com and make it work for you, too.

Communication between the community and the city Right on the home page you can use the built-in form to provide "Citizen Feedback" on any issue, ask questions, or give kudos. You can also sign up to receive e-mail news including announcements of meetings and our newsletter. Click on the City Services tab at the top of the page for a quick link to report problems like street repair needs, ordinance violations, and other issues. All communications go straight to Linnea Bailey, our City Secretary, for proper resolution.

Utilities Issue Form A fairly new communications tool is a link to the Utilities Issue Form. If you have any problems to report on city utilities, including water/wastewater, electric, telephone, or cable, click on the form and the issue will be logged by your ombudsman, Councilmember Melinda Gumbert, and sent on to the utility and appropriate authorities.

There's lots more to www.cityofwoodcreek.com, too. You owe it to yourself to browse your city site often, and don't hesitate to send us your suggestions. Just like the rest of your city services, we only get better through your input.

Councilmember Jeff Rasco
Chair-Community/Citizen Communicaitons