

IMPORTANT DATES:

FEBRUARY:

- 9th: 6:30 p.m. Meet the Candidates
- 11th: 6:30 p.m. Community Develop. Meeting
- 16th: 6:00 p.m. JCESD #1 Meeting
- 18th: 7:00 p.m. City Council Meeting
- 16th-26th: Early Voting for COUNTY.

MARCH:

- 1st: PRIMARY ELECTION
- 10th: 6:30 p.m. Community Develop. Meeting
- 13th: Daylight Savings Time
- 15th: 6:00 p.m. JCESD #1 Meeting
- 17th: 7:00 p.m. City Council Meeting
- 27th: EASTER

City Wide Yard Sale: May 14th

City Wide Clean Up: May 21st

Becky Ford, Mayor	753-1263
Danny Fruge, Mayor Pro-Tem Roads & Drainage; Grounds	753-3446
<u>Council Members:</u>	
Sherry Adams, Ward 3 Secretary & Buildings	753-2474
Michelle Nelson, Ward 2 Community Development	753-1475
Dave Tevis, Ward 1 Street Lights & Signs	781-2071
Bud Merendino, Ward 1	466-3193
Fay Roberts, Ward 2	753-2163
<u>City Clerks:</u>	
Kimberely Vandver & Naomi Fregia	753-1475
<u>Emergency Management:</u>	
Don Smith	658-8220
<u>Code Enforcement Officer:</u>	
Mike Collier	753-1475
<u>Water/Sewer:</u>	
Office Hours:	753-2126
Emergency AFTER Hours:	755-7377

City of Bevil Oaks
7525 Sweetgum Rd.
Beaumont, TX 77713

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE PAID
SOUR LAKE, TX
PERMIT NO. 3

RESIDENT
RURAL ROUTE 1
BEAUMONT, TX 77713

January 2016

City of Bevil Oaks



House Fire

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On Tuesday morning, January 19, 2016, a fire started in the garage at the home of Jimmie and Colleen Grimes, 13545 Rolling Hills Drive. When Mrs. Grimes discovered it, the flames were already leaping from the golf cart to the ceiling. Our fire department, JCESD #1, Inc. arrived on the scene within 5 minutes of receiving the call and extra volunteers were there within 10 minutes. But, the fire had swept quickly into the attic area. Additional

trucks and volunteers from Sour Lake and JCESD #3 (Nome/China) also came to assist. The volunteers fought relentlessly doing everything possible to stop the fire with minimal damage. However, the intensity of the fire and the high winds made it difficult to contain and the structure was a total loss.

Mr. Grimes was able to remove their automobiles and both he and Mrs. Grimes, along with their beloved dog Jackson, were able to escape with minor injuries. They have since learned that a few cherished items were also salvageable in addition to some clothing that should be able to be cleaned. According to the Grimes' the most rewarding and gratifying of all of this is the outpouring of love and compassion they have received from friends and, from neighbors, some of whom they were barely acquainted. They wish to thank you all for being there with them and to the firemen who they know worked so hard and did everything they could to save their home.



Election Dates have CHANGED!

During the December 2015 Council Meeting, the City Council voted to approve changing the City Uniform Election Dates from May each year to November each year. This means for the CITY, there will be no May election, and all positions up for election will be held on November 8, 2016. The positions that will be on the ballot are currently held by:

Ward 1: Bud Merendino

Ward 2: Fay Roberts

Ward 3: Sherry Adams

This means new dates will be posted and coming out by the end of June. Filing dates for those interested in running will start the last week of July and run into part of August. Again, official notice will be posted on or before June 23, 2016.



Do We Have Your Number?

The City has been sending out Blackboard messages over the last few months regarding multiple topics. Some of those calls go to everyone and some to specific people. A few of those topics are:

- When the bayou was reaching flood stage and went over
- Community Events
- Late Notices
- Water Leaks that affect you or your bill

It is highly important we have your updated information. Recently we have had several that we have tried contacting regarding a water leak, to find they have never updated their contact information with us. If you have not updated your information, please do so immediately! We can also email you information as well as call you. To update your information, please choose one of the following:

- Email: bevilocks@att.net
- Call: 409-753-1475
- Stop by or drop it in the drop box



MUD BUGS! Crawfish are coming!



Crawfish are coming! Mud Hornets Crawfish Catering is opening up in Bevil Oaks to sell crawfish soon. You can check them out on Facebook to keep an eye on their opening day. Go check them out and help us welcome them to Bevil Oaks! They are located between King's Mart and the Dollar General. So who's ready for some mud bugs??? I AM!!!!

Answers to Common Misconceptions about Flood Insurance

“Who needs flood insurance? If my home is ever flooded, disaster assistance will bail me out.”

THE FACTS ARE:

- Before most forms of Federal disaster assistance can be offered, the President must declare a major disaster.
- The most common form of Federal disaster assistance is a loan, which must be paid back with interest.

“Food insurance is too expensive”

THE FACTS ARE:

- The monthly payment on a \$50,000 disaster home loan at 4% interest is \$303 for 20 years.
- The average premium for federally backed flood insurance through the NFIP is \$550 a year.
- The cost of a preferred risk policy starts as low as \$129 a year.

“We are not going to be flooded. This area has never been flooded.”

THE FACTS ARE:

- Floods are the most common, and most costly, natural disaster
- Because more roads and buildings are being constructed where once was unimproved land, floods are more severe throughout the U.S.
- On average, 25-30% of all flood insurance claims paid by the NFIP are for property outside the special flood hazard areas.

THE FACTS SHOW:

Flood insurance from the NFIP puts you in control. Homeowners, business owners, and renters can all buy flood insurance. Flood insurance claims are paid promptly, so flood victims can recover quickly. Flood insurance reimburses you on covered losses. Separate contents coverage is available so renters can also buy protection. There is normally a 30 day waiting period on flood insurance, so you cannot wait until it starts to flood.

Check out the below website to see what an inch or more could cost you:

https://www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/pages/flooding_flood_risks/the_cost_of_flooding.jsp

Please contact Kimberely Vandver at City Hall or your local insurance agent for more information.

ROADS... Continued...

For those of you that are not aware, we operate our City on a budget of about \$206,000 for fiscal 2016 (the utility side is a separate entity). Were it not for the fact that we had \$175,000 in our Road User account left over from an old road user fee, this project would not have been possible either with or without the County's participation. To put this into perspective, please keep in mind that there are probably some households in Bevil Oaks that have a yearly combined income of \$200,000 plus, so everyone should feel very grateful that we were able to perform this work on our own with the County's help, because without it, it would have been impossible.

In conclusion, while we did experience some weather related and mechanical problems on Shipley, the County was able to overcome these and provide the City and its citizens with a great job that should provide us with several years of service. And to show our appreciation to the County, the Mayor has sent a "Thank You" letter to Commissioner Eddie Arnold and his staff for a great effort and a satisfactory job under less-than-perfect conditions.

Councilman Danny Fruge

Roads and Drainage

Stay Informed!

- The CITY's Facebook page named BEVIL OAKS CITY
- Online at www.CityofBevilOaks.com
- Attend a Community Development meeting, 2nd Thursday each month
- Attend a City Council Meeting, 3rd Thursday each month



Solicitation Ordinance

There has been some recent confusion on the Solicitation Ordinance. The Ordinance has never been intended for groups such as Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Little League, or any other local school group or youth education organizations to have to obtain a permit. We do like for them to inform City Hall of when they will be out here, as there has been some instances where adults have been rude to a child or call us and ask if it is okay for them to be here. Commercial solicitation, such as for internet services, paving driveways, selling magazines, or any other number of things is illegal unless they first obtain a Solicitation Permit from City Hall. This takes over a week to obtain and comes at a current fee of \$75. But again, groups mentioned above are exempt and have always been intended that way. However, due to the recent confusion, the City Council voted to add in a specific paragraph under the exemption section stating such at the January 2016 meeting.

Sewer Project

After a seven week delay caused partially by the pump manufacture as well as the electrical switchgear manufacture, our new pumps and hardware finally arrived from Germany and our contractor was able to start back to work on our sewer project on December 14, 2015. The pumps that were spec'd for our project are Flygt pumps and are recognized as the premier sewer pumps in the industry. The first order of business was to install temporary diesel pumps to pump the sewer effluent into the treatment plant while the existing electric pumps were removed and the rehabilitation of the existing lift station was started. This portion of the work has been going well without incident and at present, the newly rebuilt lift station will soon be ready to start pumping our effluent to the City of Beaumont via the new force main that was installed at the end of last summer or early fall. While the delay was unfortunate, it has not caused any problems to the City either financially or otherwise.

According to Carroll & Blackman Engineers, Inc, barring any extreme inclement weather, the new lift station should go online early February. I am sure for those citizens that live within earshot of those diesel pumps turning off and on throughout the day and night this will not come soon enough. Thus is the inconvenience of progress! After the new lift station comes online and proves to be working properly for a short period of time, the demolition phase of the project will begin to dismantle the old existing plant and haul it away.

Towards the end of October, the contractor was prepping the slopes of the pond for seeding when heavy rains occurred and prevented this work from taking place. At present, the contractor has repaired the damage done by erosion from not only the heavy rains of late October, but also other heavy and frequent rains we have had during this time period. By the time this newsletter arrives in your mailbox, we expect the seeding of the pond slopes to have been completed.

So at present, we anticipate substantial completion sometime in February (pumping of effluent to Beaumont) and project completion by the end of April. We have been very fortunate thus far on this project experiencing few problems, with the exception of the pump delivery delay.

AUTO PAYMENT for Water Bills Has Arrived!

Starting February 1, 2016, you can fill out a form at City Hall to pay your water bill with a debit or credit card each month. You will fill out the form, stating what amount to not go over when charging your credit card, and it will be pulled out of your account each month between the 15th and 21st.

If you choose this option, you will still receive a monthly bill each month. You can also cancel at any time before the 15th of that month.



ROADS

This past November, Jefferson County Precinct No. 1 finished our road re-building/re-surfacing project for selected streets. The following streets were the focus of the project:

Inwood (from Shipley East to the end). This portion was in good enough condition to only need two layers of tack oil and chips.

Thousand Oaks, Alaskan, and Rolling Hills (from Shipley East to the end). These sections were all rehabilitated by mixing the existing surface and subgrade (rock base), compacting same and then two layers of compacted chips were installed to reseal and provide the wearing surface.

Leaning Oaks and Wayside from River Bend Drive East to Shipley. These sections were resurfaced in the same manner as the Thousand Oaks portion.

Shipley from Capital to the entrance of the Sewer Plant. Due to base failures throughout the length of Shipley, 6" of limestone base had to be added and mixed into the existing road base, compacted, sealed, and then two layers of chips added for the wearing surface.

In addition, 4 different intersections around the City were resurfaced with 2 layers of chips as well.

For those citizens who may not be aware, the City has an inter-local agreement in place with the County whereby the County provides labor and equipment to the City at no charge. The City purchases whatever materials are necessary for the job they are performing whether it be installing culverts across City streets or road building projects such as this one.

Inclement weather at the end of October caused some problems with Shipley when extraordinary amounts of rain fell before the second layer of chips could be laid on top of the new limestone and compacted. The County was able to rectify these problems and redo some intersections that were affected as well as some short stretches of Shipley. Consequently, some portions of Shipley have 4 layers of chips installed.

And speaking of chips (the 3/8" gravel that was used for the wearing surface), the City had on hand approximately 430 tons of this material as calculated by the County that was purchased for our last road project the County performed back in the summer of 2013. This material was purchased using grant money from Hurricane Ike/Dolly Recovery Funds and was left over from that project. At today's pricing, this material had a value of approximately \$30,000. This material had been stored west of the Fire Station since that project was completed in the summer of 2013. The County told us that this was not enough chips for this project. The Counties engineers estimated we would need approximately an additional 226 tons. The City was able to purchase that amount from the County's stockpile.

Anyone that lived close to or had to travel Shipley knows what a dusty drive that was until we had enough rain to wash the dust away. This excessive dust was caused by 2 problems. First, our stock pile of rocks had been there for over 2 years collecting dust. As it rained, this dust was washed down towards the bottom of the pile. Shipley was the last road to be chipped. All of the clean rock from the upper part of the pile had been used on the other roads leaving the dirtiest chips to be laid on Shipley. The shortage of chips that we purchased from the County was the bottom of their stockpile as well. This, coupled with the fact that some portions of Shipley had to be re-coated and therefore had 4 layers of chips, is what caused the extreme dust conditions. Thankfully, we have had enough rain thus far that nearly all of the dust has been washed away.



ROADS... Continued...

I am sure everyone that lives around Shipley was aware of the abundance of excess chips on the road. Many citizens called in complaining of chips hitting their windshields. The explanation for this problem is twofold as well. In addition to a double layer of chips in some areas mentioned above, the County's chip spreading machine was not working properly and was placing too much rock or chips on the surface of the road during each pass. This was a computer based control system on the machine that was not working properly and the manufacturer's representative was called out to repair or adjust, without much success. As a result, the County had to bring a backup chip spreader from their yard to finish the job. So, it was a snowballing effect of weather, dust, and equipment malfunction that caused the dusting and excessive chips on Shipley. After many complaints from citizens about the excessive chips and consultations with the County road foreman, it was decided to sweep the excess chips off of Shipley onto the shoulder where the grass would grow up through them and they would eventually disappear beneath the grass. This was the only option available; the County had no way to vacuum the excess chips up off of the road. A blade on a motor grader could not be used as this would dislodge the newly laid chips from the surface. Sweeping was the only option available to eliminate the unsafe condition presented by the excessive amount of chips.

A point of interest about our roads in Bevil Oaks; in general, we do not have asphalt roads. We have what is called "chip and seal" roads. A true asphalt road is where anywhere from 2" to 3" of hot asphalt is laid on top of the rock subgrade or existing road surface and compacted. On a "chip and seal" road, tack oil is spread over the rock subgrade or existing road surface and then a layer of chips is spread and compacted into the oil/rock surface and then the process is repeated for a second coat. As one might imagine, "chip and seal" roads are much less expensive than true asphalt roads. Over time as more applications of chips are added over the years (hopefully), the road surface looks like asphalt but it really isn't. The road foreman for Precinct No. 1 said he has worked for the County since 1980 and they have never laid asphalt in Bevil Oaks. In fact, 100% of the road resurfacing work they do throughout the county is "chip & seal"; they do not have an asphalt laydown machine. If asphalt was laid at some time in the past on County maintained roads outside of Bevil Oaks, then it was through a grant and a contractor was used to perform this work. It is possible that when the City was built or prior to 1980, asphalt could have been laid in Bevil Oaks, but we are not sure. We can only go by what the road foreman has represented to the City.

To properly maintain "chip and seal roads, they must be re-sealed every few years, around six to ten. The resealing is performed in order to close up or seal new cracks as they appear over time. Sealing cracks prevents water from penetrating the road base and thereby causing road base failures. This is preventative maintenance for our roads and is highly recommended by the County to help reduce the cost of road maintenance and repairs. This project was that preventative maintenance on the affected streets. Hopefully in a couple of years, we will be performing this work on other streets that require this attention.

Commissioner Eddie Arnold attended our last City Council meeting held on January 25, 2016 and shared with the Council the County's contribution in manpower and equipment cost associated with our road project. Included in our road project was the surfacing of the basketball court parking area also. The County provided the labor and equipment for both projects as per the interlocal agreement which saved the City several thousand dollars. The City's portion of this work for **materials only** was slightly over \$121,000 which was about \$11,000 over the budgeted amount of \$110,000. The increased amount was due to the re-work of some sections of Shipley. So, the combined total of the parking area as well as our road project was approximately \$331,000.