

IMPORTANT DATES:

JUNE:

- 9th: 6:30 p.m. Community Develop. Meeting
- 16th: 7:00 p.m. City Council Meeting
- 21st: 6:00 p.m. JCESD #1 Meeting
- 23rd: Election Dates to sign up will be officially posted

JULY:

- 4th: 4th of July—OFFICE CLOSED
- 14th: 6:30 p.m. Community Develop. Meeting
- 14th: 7:00 p.m. City Council BUDGET Meeting
- 28th: 7:00 p.m. City Council Meeting (this is a changed date)

July 25th—1st Day to file for name on ballot for November City Council Elections

Becky Ford, Mayor	753-1263
Danny Fruge, Mayor Pro-Tem Roads & Drainage; Grounds	753-3446
Council Members:	
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
City Clerks: Kimberely Vandver & Naomi Fregia	
Emergency Management: Don Smith	
Code Enforcement Officer: Mike Collier	
Water/Sewer: Office Hours: 753-2126 Emergency AFTER Hours: 755-7377	

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

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

**RESIDENT
RURAL ROUTE 1
BEAUMONT, TX 77713**

June 2016

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City of Bevil Oaks



4th of July

This year's Grand Marshall will be Mr. Norman Lowrey—He is the oldest living member of the 1st family who settled in Bevil Oaks, the developer of Lowery Place, and a former City Councilman!

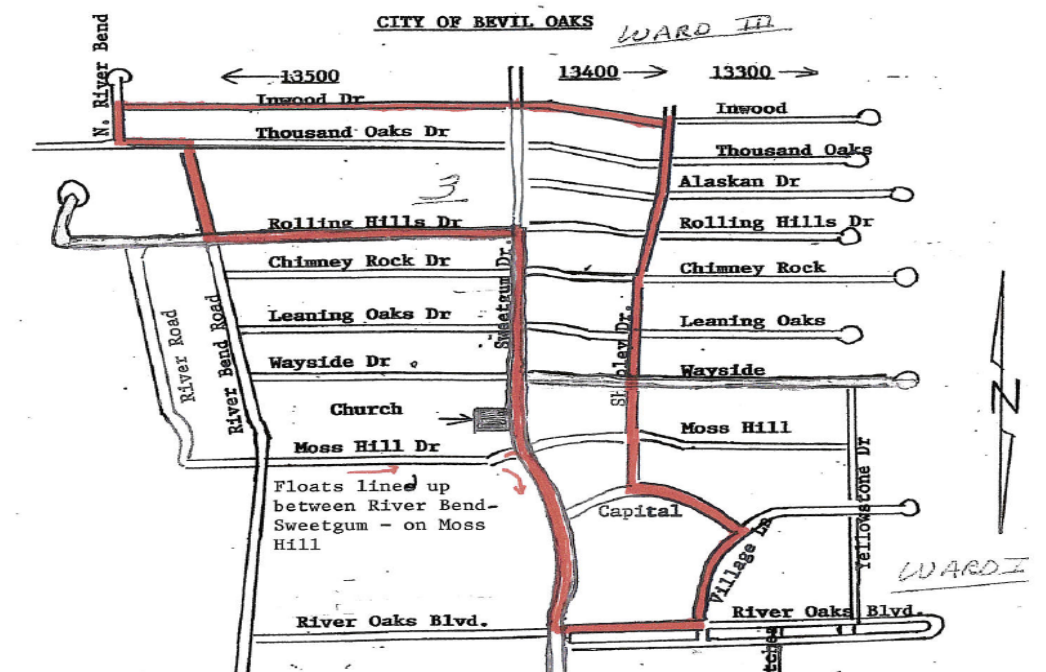
Timeline

- 5:30p – Registration opens for parade
- 6:00p – Celebration will begin
- 6:30p – Food will be served
- 7:30p – Parade begins, awards immediately following (appr. 8p)
- 9p – Fireworks

Parade Categories:

- Most Creative
- Best Child Bike – 12 and Under; Motorized – Over 12
- Best Costume – 12 and Under; Best Costumer – Over 12

Will be color guard, music, games, food.



Election Dates have CHANGED!

NOTICE OF DEADLINE TO FILE APPLICATIONS FOR PLACE ON THE BALLOT

Notice is hereby given that applications for a place on the City of Bevil Oaks Regular (**NOVEMBER 8, 2016**) Election ballot may be filed during the following time:

START: July 25, 2016 **END: August 22, 2016**

Office Hours: Monday—Thursday 7:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. & Friday 8:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Physical address for filing applications in person for place on the ballot:

City Hall
7525 Sweetgum Rd
Beaumont, TX 77713



Address to mail applications for place on the ballot:

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

3 positions are up for election.
They are currently held by:
Ward 1: Bud Merendino
Ward 2: Fay Roberts
Ward 3: Sherry Adams

New Park Grant

We have been awarded a Texas Parks and Wildlife Grant for a new park area that will be placed by the fire station. We are waiting on the final paperwork from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to start work and see progress. New playground equipment, picnic tables, and parking area will be in the first phase of the park area. Walking trails will be part of the next phase. Keep an eye out for the progress coming!

New Street Lights

Have you noticed Bevil Oaks is brighter lately? Councilman Dave Tevis has been working with Entergy to "brighten" our streets! In total, they are working on 14 new lights and 6 upgrades to be placed around the City. At this time, they will be placed on the following streets:

New Installs: 3 on Sweetgum; 1 on Alaskan; 1 on Rolling Hills; 1 on Chimney Rock; 3 on Thousand Oaks; 1 on North Riverbend; 1 on Saddlewood; 1 on Craig Lane; 1 on Leaning Oaks, and 1 at the Fire Station facing the new park as mentioned above.

Upgrades: 1 on Sweetgum; 1 on Thousand Oaks; 1 on Riverbend; 2 on Rolling Hills and 1 on Leaning Oaks

If you have a street light out, please contact City Hall to have it turned in to be fixed. Thank you!

Flooded Out? Where to Park...

During times of flooding in Bevil Oaks and the City or County shuts down parts of Riverbend Drive and/or parts of River Oaks Blvd, please do not park your vehicles at the Fire Station. During these times, those who live in the affected homes are allowed to park behind City Hall, at the basketball goals, or even at the Civic Center if needed. Parking at the Fire Station can cause you to be blocked in or worse, and can cause someone to not get help from the fire department when needed. Thank you to everyone for their cooperation!

Flood Gauge & Drainage in Bevil Oaks

Drainage District 6 (DD6) has been working to improve drainage in Bevil Oaks for many years. The devastating flood of 1994 flooded almost every home in Bevil Oaks regardless of whether or not they were located in a special flood hazard zone. Immediately afterward, DD6 began by performing a comprehensive study of the Bevil Oaks interior drainage system along with a study of DD6 Ditch 1203 watershed. Recommendations were made to then Mayor Don Smith for ditch cleaning, new culvert installation and, in some cases, enlargements that needed to be done by the City in cooperation with Precinct #1. The cost of this part of the project was approximately \$40,000.

DD6 spent approximately \$300,000 constructing/widening/deepening DD6 Ditch #1203 that runs along the eastern boundary of Bevil Oaks and into Pine Island Bayou to the north. This ditch was designed for DD6 by Doug Canant, Professional Engineer with Howell & Davis Engineering. Mr. Canant is now the District Engineer for DD6. Mr. Canant states that "the ditch was designed to convey storm runoff from the ditches that flow out of Bevil Oaks northerly into Pine Island Bayou. It has nothing to do with detention. However, on occasion, the bayou back water will back up into Ditch #1203 because the bottom of the ditch runs from elevation 15 at Alaskan Drive to elevation 23 at River Oaks Blvd."

Mr. Canant further explained that the DD6 gauge at Hwy 105 (which is shown on their website) reads higher than the sight gauge they installed by the fire station on River Oaks.)

Blvd. because, "as flood water travels from Highway 105 northerly and then easterly down Pine Island Bayou, the elevation of the water drops. It drops about 18" from Hwy 105 to River Oaks Blvd. The sign installed on River Oaks Blvd. shows historic elevations at that point. The numbers on the sight gauge are for that area only and the reading will always be lower than the gauge at Highway 105 by about 18."

In addition to the initial cost of construction of DD6 Ditch #1203, Mr. Canant estimates that the annual maintenance on this ditch alone, since 1999, has accumulated to approximately \$250,000. This does not include the maintenance on the other large internal ditches that feed to this ditch. Every time we have a heavy rain, DD6 crews are in the neighborhood making sure their ditches are free of debris and flowing toward the bayou. The next time this happens, take the time to stop and tell them that you appreciate all that they have done and continue to do to keep us from flooding.

Have You Served in the Military?

I am looking to build a float for the 4th of July parade to honor the men and women of Bevil Oaks who have served or are serving in the military. If you have served in the military or have a family member who is currently serving and would like to be recognized please let me know. The current plan is to have these folks ride on the float if they would like to. If they would not want to ride on the float or cannot but would still like to be recognized you may bring me a poster with their picture, name, branch of service, and the dates they served. I will make every effort to return the posters back to the family. If you or a family member would like to be recognized or help please contact me at douglas.emmons@gmail.com or 409-753-2149.

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



Barricades & Sour Lake vs. Bevil Oaks Flooding

During the recent floods, the City of Bevil Oaks put up several barricades on Riverbend and River Oaks Blvd. These are put up for the safety for our citizens. They are placed there to keep drivers from endangering themselves and their passengers from potential dangerous situations that can cause life threatening situations. The Emergency Services District #1, even though they are made up of some of the best of the best in our area, do not have a dive team and should a car get swept away the outcome would be catastrophic before the Beaumont dive team could arrive. Not only this, but driving on those roads also causes waves to be pushed up into the homes surrounding the high rising water, and just a few added inches can cause water to cover electrical outlets that may not have been covered before or more damage. Please have common courtesy and respect for your neighbors and their property, and do not move or go around barricades. Please note, it is also ILLEGAL to move a barricade blocking low-water crossings. Penalties range from \$200-\$2,000 and/or up to 2 years in jail. So remember, TURN AROUND, DON'T DROWN!

Also, when the news reports Pine Island Bayou levels at Sour Lake, this is NOT the level at Bevil Oaks. There is about 6 foot difference. To find Bevil Oaks, go to http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph.php?wfo=Ich&gage=jynt2&prob_type=stage&source=hydrograph or www.DD6.org and find "Water Level" at the bottom. Make sure to click on 1303, which is for Bevil Oaks, Data link. This will tell you where the levels are during the time listed at Highway 105 and Riverbend Drive. (Please see the article on the next page, and note that the sign at River Oaks Blvd is approximately 18" different from Highway 105 & Riverbend Dr.)

What Happens With Code Enforcement?

This is a hard question to answer, as there are many scenarios and outcomes. The first thing that takes place is a complaint. This complaint can come from either a citizen, councilmember, or the code enforcement officer doing a ride around. Once a complaint is filed, regardless of who files it, the complaint is reviewed for a violation. When determining if the issue is in fact in violation, both city ordinances and state laws are reviewed.

If a complaint is found to be in violation, then a notice is sent to the homeowner. The first notice sent is a courtesy notice, telling them of the violation on their property and that we are giving them time to correct the issue without further cause. This notice is very specific in the violation and how many days is allowed before the violation will be checked again. Often times, the homeowner will contact City Hall and discuss the issue explaining when they will be taking care of the concern in question, and can request an extension, up to 30 days. As long as the homeowner has a plan to correct the issue, an extension is given. Once the deadline is reached, the violation is reviewed again, and new pictures taken. If the violation is still there, a second notice is mailed, this time as an official violation notice and sent certified mail. By law, the homeowner does not have to pick up the letter in order for us to prosecute, so ignoring the mail will not stop prosecution if it gets to that point. This step also gives them a very specific set time limit to take care of the issue. Once that deadline has passed and the issue has not been taken care of, a court date is set. At this point, the homeowner must attend the Bevil Oaks Municipal Court and explain why the violation has not been corrected after multiple notices before the Judge. Currently, the City of Bevil Oaks uses Judge Kenneth Dollinger for all municipal proceedings.

There are many times when a complaint comes in from a citizen that the property in question has already been notified and the proceedings have already begun. Please understand that in all, from the first letter to the court date, this can take at a minimum of 6-8 weeks.

However, there are other times when a complaint has been dropped off that the complaint is not in violation of any ordinance. This can be for several reasons. Just a few are: (1) They have a permit for the dumpster/demolition/building that has an expiration date; (2) the vehicle is an antique and by state law antique vehicles (which MUST meet State requirements first, not just because someone thinks or says it is an antique) are allowed; (3) Pictures must be available, and when code enforcement goes by, there is no proof (ie. Gate shut, items cleaned up, no sign of a business in operation).

If you have a complaint, there are forms at City Hall to fill out and we will take a look!

AUTO PAYMENT for Water Bills Has Arrived!

Starting back in 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. This was advertised in the last newsletter, and we have had a good response!



Living in a Floodplain

Risks, Planning, & Recovery

DO I LIVE IN A FLOODPLAIN?

The floodplain is the flat land bordering rivers and lakes. As a naturally occurring feature of the landscape, a floodplain carries excess water when heavy rains cause streams to overflow.

Floodplains vary in size and shape. Small streams with steep, high banks have narrow floodplains. Other streams may have larger floodplains. No matter what size or shape, all floodplains have one thing in common—they flood.

Floodplains are not always easily detected. Generally, they are low-lying areas near streams, dry creek beds, or drainage ways, but not always. To find out if your home or business is located in a floodplain, check with your local floodplain administrators. They should have a detailed map showing the flood-hazard areas in your community.

FLOOD INSURANCE

Your regular homeowner's insurance policy does not cover flood damages. Consequently, one of the best ways to lessen the impact of flooding is to purchase flood insurance. Although insurance can't prevent flooding, it can cover most of the costs (less the deductible) associated with flood damages.

Over 1,100 Texas communities have joined the National Flood Insurance Program, which makes affordable flood insurance available on almost any building and its contents. This includes single- and multi-family dwellings, manufactured homes, businesses, government and farm buildings, churches and schools. Contents coverage is also available to renters.

To find out more about flood insurance eligibility and your property's exposure to flood risk, contact any licensed property or casualty insurance agent or broker, or call the National Flood Insurance Program's toll-free number, 1-800-638-6620. You can also determine if your property is in a flood hazard area by checking with your local floodplain administrators.

I LIVE IN A FLOODPLAIN: WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Residents of floodplains face the very real risk of flooding and the devastation that it can cause. Homes can be damaged or destroyed. Property can be ruined. If you live in a floodplain, you can avoid or at least minimize the damage by planning today for flooding that might occur tomorrow.

NOW: PLAN AHEAD

When you live in a flood-prone area, common sense tells you to plan ahead. There are five basic things you should do now to be well prepared for the eventuality of a flood.

- **Buy flood insurance.** There is a 30-day waiting period for policies to become effective. Damages resulting from a flood that's already in progress at the time you purchase the insurance will not be covered. Contact your agent today.
- **Learn the flood-warning system in your community.** Find the safest route from your home to higher ground, then practice taking the route with your entire family.
- **Make a list of your possessions.** You should itemize your personal property, such as clothing, furnishings, and other valuables. This will provide you with a good record that will support your flood insurance claims. Photos of your property are also helpful.
- **Keep a battery-operated radio and flashlight ready** and in good working order. Have emergency food, water, and medical supplies on hand. If your home is severely flood prone, consider stockpiling sandbags, plastic sheeting, and other materials that can be used to temporarily protect your property.
- **Keep valuables, legal documents, and insurance policies safe** in a dry, secure place such as a safe-deposit box.

DURING A FLOOD: KEEP SAFE

When flood warnings are issued and waters are rising, the most important consideration is your safety and that of your family. Keep your radio tuned to your emergency station. If you are advised to evacuate, do so immediately. Remember that flood waters can rise very rapidly in Texas. If time permits, however, there are several steps you should take to protect your property.

- **Fill containers, bathtubs, and sinks with clean water.** There's a good chance your regular water supply will be cut off or become contaminated.
 - **Shut off all utilities (water, gas, and electricity)** at the main switches and valves. Use caution if the area is already inundated.
 - **Move personal property to higher ground.** Outdoor articles also should be moved to safety or securely anchored.
- If evacuation becomes necessary...*
- **Move quickly but calmly.** Don't wait until the last minute to leave. Take personal necessities with you, including medication, eyeglasses, and clothing.
 - **Avoid areas that are already flooded.** Use evacuation routes suggested by local officials. Do not drive over flooded areas: roads may be impassable or already washed away. Abandon stalled vehicles and walk to higher ground.

RECOVERING FROM A FLOOD: PROCEED CAREFULLY

If your home has been damaged by a flood, you can take a number of steps to expedite the recovery process.

- **Wait until officials assure you that the flood danger has passed** before reentering any area.
- **Call your flood insurance agent.** An adjuster will be sent to inspect the damage.
- **Before entering a building, make sure it is not in danger of collapsing.** Allow it to air out to remove foul odors or gas. Your community may require a permit or certificate of occupancy.
- **Use flashlights—not lanterns or torches—**when entering a building, because of the possible presence of gas. Also watch for live electrical wires. Make certain the main power switch is turned off, and do not turn on any lights or appliances until an electrician has checked the system.
- **Clean up as soon as possible.** Open windows and doors to dry out the building. Shovel out mud while it is still moist. Throw away perishable foods. Scrub and disinfect walls, floors, and household items. Thoroughly clean, dry, and air out clothing, rugs, and bedding.
- **Test and purify drinking water before using.**
- **Photograph damaged areas or items and keep records of repair activities.**

