

The Sachse Scene

September/October 2013

Keeping You Informed About Your City

City offices will be closed September 2 for Labor Day. In case of a water or sewer emergency, call 972.495. 2271, option 2. Please note, trash will NOT be picked up on Monday, September 2. Routes will be delayed by one day the entire week, September 3 - 7.

Special Election Called for City Council Place 2 September 21



On July 15, City Council called a Special Election for September 21 to fill the unexpired term for City Council Place 2.

On July 1, Jared Patterson resigned his seat to seek the Republican nomination for the Texas House of Representatives, District 112.

The filing period for a place on the ballot ran from

July 22 thru August 20.

Charles Ross and David Hock have filed to run for election in Place 2.

Early voting takes place September 4 thru 6 and September 9 thru 14, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; September 15, 1:00 to 6:00 p.m.; and September 16 and 17, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Sachse City Hall. Election Day voting is from 7:00 a.m.

to 7:00 p.m. at Sachse City Hall.

You must be registered to vote 30 days prior to the election. Voter registration cards are available at City Hall.

The election will be canvassed at a special meeting on September 30 and the new Councilman will be sworn in during the October 7 meeting.

Visit the city's website at www.cityofsachse.com for info.

Inside...



Fall Activities Highlighted; Mark Your Calendar



September is Library Card Month - Come Join Us



Meet Your New Fire Chief



A Look at What Your Tax Dollars Provide



City boards and commissions would not exist without citizens volunteering their time and service to the city. If you are interested in serving on a city board or commission, Council is accepting applications until September 20. Interviews with Council are scheduled in October, and appointments are made in November.

Boards / Commissions Volunteers Add Depth to City Services

A brief list of opportunities: **Planning & Zoning Commission**

considers zoning, platting, land use, etc. They meet the

2nd and 4th Monday of the month. **Zoning Board of Adjustments** considers variances to zoning ordinances. They meet on an "as called" basis.

Parks and Recreation Commission considers issues related to the parks system. They meet the 2nd Thursday of the month.

Library Board considers Library use and services.

They meet the 2nd Monday of the month. **Animal Shelter Board** considers matters related to the operation of the Animal Shelter. They meet the 4th Thursday of every other month. **Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors** studies and promotes commercial development. They meet the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

Applications are available online at www.cityofsachse.com/forms.aspx or at City Hall. Complete and return to City Secretary by September 20 to be considered. See the city's website for more boards and commissions information.



www.cityofsachse.com
Enjoy all the news, information, calendar of events, and helpful resources available on the city's website.

Click on **Notify Me** at www.cityofsachse.com to have City news delivered to your inbox.

Join Sachse Police Department for National Night Out October 1

Turn off the TV, computer and cell phone, turn on the porch light and spend the evening outside with your neighbors to celebrate National Night Out October 1 from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.

National Night Out strengthens neighborhood spirit and police/community partnerships. It is an opportunity for neighborhoods to organize block parties, cookouts, visits from the police officers, flashlight walks, youth activities, contests and simply getting to know your neighbors.

If your neighborhood would like to host an event,

please contact Lt. Marty Cassidy at 469.429.9822 or mcassidy@cityofsachse.com. "Lt. Cassidy will provide assistance and materials to make local events a success," said Police Chief Dennis Veach. "He will also schedule appearances by the department's officers at each event. We are always eager to get out there and strengthen our partnership with the community."

And don't forget the Police Department's E-Watch and Video Partnership programs. More info is available on the city's website or by contacting Lt. Cassidy.



New Fire Chief On Board

The Fire Chief manages, directs, and oversees fire suppression, emergency medical response, code enforcement, fire prevention,

Prior to Sachse, Mr. Coleman worked for the Rowlett Fire Department for 20 years. He joined Sachse Fire Rescue as a Lieutenant, was promoted to Captain, and served as the Interim Fire Chief for three months. Chief Coleman holds a Master Certification with the Texas Fire Commission on Fire Protection and a Level 2 Instructor



fire investigation, and emergency management. Rick Coleman has been selected as the new Fire Chief, a position vacated when former Chief Doug Kendrick retired earlier this year.

Certification. He is also TIMS and HAZMAT Operations certified. Chief Coleman is currently pursuing a BS Degree in Public Safety Administration from St. Edwards University.



From the Mayor's Desk

Mike Felix
Mayor, City of Sachse

Let's talk budget and tax rate. The City Council and City Staff have spent several weeks working on the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 budget. It is my pleasure to report that this budget does not require a change in tax rate,

continues to provide existing services that Sachse's citizens expect, and provides improved services in several areas.

With Sachse's economic growth improving, FY 2013 saw a sharp increase in development permits. The average home value is up by \$11,858, a 7.55% increase over the prior year.

We anticipate that FY 2014 will see the construction of two major employment centers in Sachse: the Sachse Regional Medical Center and Wal-Mart. These developments promise to be two of Sachse's top five employment centers once they are opened and fully staffed.

Achievements in 2013 include: The City joining with funding partners, including the private sector, to fund a railroad quiet zone along SH 78 that will result in a better business environment; and two water line installations, saving taxpayers thousands of dollars. City Council meetings and workshops are now being broadcast over the local access cable channels and through the city's website, providing our citizens the opportunity to be more involved in their government. The 2013 Great American Cleanup event was expanded to include community-wide e-waste collection and disposal. Council adopted new Impact Fees that better reflect the true cost of capital infrastructure needs in the community. Also in 2013, the citizens voted to adopt a Street Maintenance Tax. This tax, which is a 0.25% increase in the city's sales tax, is restricted in its use by State Law and allows for these funds to only be used to maintain streets that existed at the time the tax was adopted by the voters.

The spike in development in FY 2013 allowed us to invest in two police vehicles and a fire command vehicle, critical to the continuation of public safety services to our citizens.

While we catch up on these investments, the demands on services is increasing. The FY 2013-2014 budget focuses on several areas where service enhancement is critical: the Library, the Animal Shelter, and the Code Enforcement Department.

Two significant challenges facing us in FY 2014 are the review of the water and sanitary sewer rate and adoption of a funding mechanism for sanitary sewer system expansion. The water and sewer rates will not cover the delivery of those utilities in FY 2014. With wholesale cost increases from North Texas Municipal Water District and increases to pay for wastewater treatment, the cost of these utilities to the City have significantly outpaced the rates in Sachse.

I am happy to report, the FY 2013-2014 budget does not raise the tax rate and includes no reduction in services.

Council will conduct a public hearing on the upcoming budget at their September 3 meeting and will consider adoption of the budget and tax rate at their September 9 meeting. We invite our citizens to be involved in this process.

Low-Cost Pet Shot Clinic

Sachse's Animal Shelter and Animal Allies of Texas are hosting a low-cost pet shot clinic October 19, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Animal Shelter, 6436 Sachse Road. **PLEASE**



NOTE: DOGS MUST BE ON LEASHES AND CATS MUST BE IN CARRIERS.

Animal Shelter staff will be on hand to register your pets. By City Ordinance, pets must be registered and tags must be worn to show proof of vaccination. Tags are \$2.00 if your pet is spayed/neutered (bring proof of procedure); \$7.00 if they are not. If you bring in a can of dog or cat food, the registration fee will be waived.

During the clinic, we accept **CASH ONLY**. Costs of services:

• Dogs - \$25.00 rabies, DHLPP, Bordetella (\$10.00 for rabies only)

- Cats - \$20.00 rabies and FVRCP; Feline Leukemia an additional \$15.00; Heartworm or FIV/FELV test \$25.00
- Puppies & Kittens (under 12 weeks) \$10.00 for Vx and deworming
- Microchip and Registration - \$20.00.

Please note: Veterinarian reserves the right to refuse treatment to aggressive or ill animals.

For information about the clinic or adopting a pet, please visit the Shelter during business hours: Monday thru Sunday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., or call them at 972.675.9662.

Library Helps Students

September is Library Card Sign-up Month

A library card is your ticket to joining the millions of Americans that now turn to the library on a regular basis as their source for books, DVD movies, digital music, and even help jump-starting their career.

Owning a library card provides students the resources they need to compete academically. Most libraries provide students free access to databases of news articles, encyclopedias, and test preparation materials, as well as homework help and resources. With 96 percent of school districts requiring students to use the Internet to complete their homework, public libraries also provide free Internet access, an important resource for families without access at home.

Drop by your Sachse Library and get your FREE library card.

School Got You Stressed?

Does the start of the school year give you and your family anxiety? The Library is hosting an informative program on study skills and how to make the transition from summertime to school days less stressful.

On September 10 at 6:30 p.m. at the Library, we will explore ways that you can encourage your child to increase their responsibility for their own learning, teach them time management skills, and prepare them for increasingly demanding testing situations.

Registration for this program is encouraged but not required.

More information is available at the Library.

Chamber of Commerce Presents 28th Annual Sachse Fallfest Best Arts and Crafts Show

The Sachse Chamber of Commerce hosts its 28th Annual Fallfest on October 12 at Heritage Park, 4408 Hudson Drive, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Featuring over 100 arts and crafts vendors plus more than 15 food vendors offering turkey



legs, tater swirls, kettle corn, funnel cakes, sausage on a stick, barbecue, and much more. Lots of games for all ages, raffle drawings throughout the day, and featuring local bands and vocalists on the main stage.

Admission is free. Public parking is available at Sachse High School, 3901 Miles Road.

This year's Title Sponsor is Farmers Electric Cooperative. Sponsorships

are still available and can be customized to provide the best benefit to your company.

For more information please contact Mary Ann or Jessica at the Chamber office, 972.496.1212 or visit their site at www.sachsechamber.com.

Join us for this annual Sachse tradition.

Parks Department Hosts

Annual Pumpkin Prowl



Join the Sachse Parks and Recreation Department at their 9th Annual Pumpkin Prowl on October 26 at 6:00 p.m. in Salmon Park, 4302 Williford Road.

The Great Pumpkin will hide miniature pumpkins and prize pumpkins for kids 10 and under to find. Also enjoy hayrides, games, bounce houses, and refreshments.

There is NO charge for the event.

If you have questions about the event, please call the Parks Department at 469.429.0275 or visit the city's website at www.cityofsachse.com.



Friends Fundraiser Helps Library Programs

The Friends of the Sachse Library are instrumental in planning special events, raising funds for special library needs, volunteering, and supporting the Sachse Public Library.

An easy way you can help is with your Kroger Plus Card. Simply visit krogercommunityrewards.com to register your Kroger Plus Card. Be sure to choose to support the Friends of the Sachse Public Library and a portion of your purchases throughout the year will go to your library. If you need help or have questions, please call the Library at 972.530.8966.

Seniors Prepare for Flu Season

The Senior Activity Center is offering a new exercise class for those 55+. B-Balanced will help you regain lost strength and balance and maintain your independent lifestyle.

Using resistance tubing and bodyweight exercises, this class will strengthen your core and leg muscles to prevent falls and improve your mobility.

Four sessions will be offered now thru the end of December. All equipment is provided. Cost is \$30 per session but is FREE to Silver Sneakers members.

Nurse Visits Each Month

Join us at the Center the fourth Friday of the month (October - June) from 8:30 to 11:00 a.m. when the Dallas County nurse comes to take blood pressure and blood sugar readings. Cholesterol checks can also be given but you MUST be fasting for at least eight hours. This service is FREE to our seniors.



Flu Vaccines in October

Flu shots will be

administered (**pending availability of the vaccine**)

on October 15 and 25 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Given by Walgreens and Dallas County Health Dept., the flu shots are FREE to those with a Medicare card and discounted for those without a Medicare card. Also, shots for Shingles and Pneumonia may be available upon request.

Be sure to call the Center at 972.495.6282 to check availability.

City Contact Numbers

Police/Fire/Medical	911
Police Non-Emergency	972.495.2271
Fire Non-Emergency (Code Enforcement)	469.429.4791
City Hall (City Manager, City Secretary, Finance, Utility Billing, Municipal Court, and Human Resources)	972.495.1212
Library	972.530.8966
Community Development (Permits, Building Inspections, Zoning)	469.429.4781
Public Works	972.495.7600
Parks and Recreation	469.429.0275
Animal Control	972.675.9662
Sachse Senior Center	972.495.6282
Economic Development	469.429.4764
Chamber of Commerce	972.496.1212

City Council

Mike Felix, Mayor	214.869.1016
Bill Adams, Mayor Pro Tem	214.869.1357
Brett Franks	214.869.1288
Place 2 - Vacant	
Todd Ronnau	469.628.0041
Cullen King	214.869.1083
Jeff Bickerstaff	214.869.1884
www.cityofsachse.com/City_Council	

A Look at Sachse's Budget

Dedicated to Cost-Effective Use of Citizen's Tax Dollars

The City of Sachse spends approximately \$22.6 million dollars per year providing goods and services to our citizens. Of that total, \$11.6 million dollars are spent on "general fund" operations.

Distribution Snapshot

For every dollar the City receives for the General Fund, 48 cents goes directly to providing police or fire services. Streets and drainage takes 14 cents of every dollar, while 10 cents of that dollar goes toward recreation and culture. Development and permitting requires 5 cents, and 23 cents for governmental support.

Public Safety 48%
Streets /Drainage 14%
Recreation & Culture 10%
Development & Permits 5%
General Support 23%



Did you know....

The total City property tax for a taxable home value of \$150,000 is \$1156 per year, or \$96 per month. That amount pays for:

- 24 / 7 / 365 Police, Fire, and Ambulance Services
- Code Enforcement
- Streets, Water and Sewer Services
- Building Inspection Services
- Environmental and Health Services
- Library Services
- Parks and Recreation

2013-14 Budget Snapshot

City Manager Billy George presented the proposed Fiscal Year 2013-14 Budget to the Mayor

and City Council on August 5. The proposed tax rate remains flat at \$0.770819 per \$100 of assessed valuation, the same rate as last year. Assessed property market values increased 4.05% from the preceding year. Taxable values total \$1.3 billion, making property taxes the largest source of revenue for the General Fund, generating 59% of total revenue. Sales tax and franchise fee revenue is estimated at \$2.3 million.

The next public hearing for the proposed budget is September 3. Council will adopt the tax rate and budget at a special meeting on September 9 at 6:30 p.m.

Chiefs Recognize Fallen Comrades

Police Chief Dennis Veach and Fire Chief Rick Coleman will recognize the police officers and firefighters who have lost their lives in the line of duty during the past year.

As many of you know, Texas has lost many this year. Please join us to honor them as their names are read in memorium and



their sacrifice recognized on September 11 at 9:00 a.m. at Fire Station No. 1, 5805 Bryan Street, behind City Hall.

The Sachse Scene

is an official publication of the City of Sachse. If you have questions or comments, please call 469.429.4771.