

The Sachse Scene



September / October 2014

Keeping You Informed About Your City

City offices will be CLOSED September 1 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 Monday, September 1. Routes will be delayed by one day the entire week, September 1 - 5.



WELCOME OUR NEWEST COUNCIL MEMBER PAUL WATKINS

Councilman Paul Watkins was elected to Place 3 in May 2014. He has a B.S. in Business Management from Oklahoma Christian University and is employed as an IT Manager for Atmos Energy Corporation. He served on the Planning and Zoning Commission. He and his family have lived in Sachse since 2000.

Inside...



Pumpkin Prowl Fun

WATER & SEWER RATES SET TO RISE

The costs of providing water and sanitary sewer service to the citizens of Sachse has far outpaced the funds collected from rates collected from customers. The largest contributing factors resulting in the increase of direct costs include the effects of ongoing water restrictions on the amount of water delivered to customers, the rate of increase in water purchase price charged by the North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD), and the rate of increase in sewage treatment costs paid to the City of Garland. This article includes an overview of the need to increase water and sanitary sewer rates while a subsequent pamphlet and future community meetings will provide detailed information. (cont'd on page 2)

Arts & Crafts
Food
Games
Contests
New Car Showcase

29th Annual Fallfest



National Night Out
October 7th



Walmart is now OPEN

Boards / Commissions Volunteers Add Depth to City Services

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, applications are available online at www.cityof-sachse.com/forms.aspx or at City Hall. Complete a form and return it to City Secretary by September 19 to be considered. Interviews with Council are scheduled in October and appointments are made in November.

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 & 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** promotes commercial development. They meet the 2nd Wednesday of the month.



See the city's website for more boards and commissions information.

September is
Library
Card
Month

(cont'd from page 1)

UTILITY FUND

Wholesale costs of water purchase and sanitary sewer treatment are paid for through a public utility operated by the city. When water customers pay their bills, those revenues are used to pay for the water purchased from the NTMWD, to pay the City of Garland for wastewater treatment and to pay for the costs to operate the public utility. When the revenues collected from customers do not cover the true costs, the costs to operate the utility come from reserves. The current utility fund budgeted expenses are \$ 70,324.00 more than the budgeted revenues. Paying operational costs out with reserves is not sustainable because the reserve balance will be exhausted.

COST OF INCREASES OF WATER SERVICE

The last time the City Council adopted new water and sanitary sewer rates was 2011. With the rate that was adopted, annual increases were applied based on the annual Consumer Price Index. The result was an annual average water and sewer bill increase of 2.3%. Over the same period, the cost to purchase water from the NTMWD increased 10.6% on average and will continue to increase faster than 9% through the year 2017 with rate increases greater than 5% through the year 2021. Since the direct cost of purchasing covers 61% of the total water utility expenses, and adjustment is needed to pay for the increasing wholesale cost.

LOWER WATER USAGE

Compounding the challenge of rising costs is the lower water consumption allowed during these years of drought and ongoing water restrictions. Two major issues triggered the need to conserve the region's water supply so rigorously. First, the discovery of the invasive Zebra Mussel in Lake Texoma shut off 28% of the NTMWD water supply until a 46 mile, 84-inch and 96-inch pipeline could be constructed to deliver water to the water treatment plant. That project cost \$306 million and water users, such as the City of Sachse, are paying for that project in the purchase price of water.

The second major issue affecting water restrictions is the ongoing drought. The region has experienced lower-than-average rainfall in recent years and, combined with the loss of the Lake Texoma supply, has created an environment where strict conservation is required to make sure there is sufficient water for the growing population.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The city is preparing an expanded information sheet with additional facts related to the water and sewer rate increases. Information on upcoming community meetings will be included in that information sheet where the public will have access to not only additional information, but also will be able to ask questions. That information sheet will be mailed to all water and sewer customers in Sachse, so please watch your mailbox.

From the Mayor's Desk



Mike Felix
Mayor, City of Sachse

At a recent Sachse Chamber of Commerce luncheon, I had the honor of presenting an update on many of the fine things happening around our city. I would like to share some of those highlights with you.

Earlier this year, the credit reporting agency Standard & Poor's upgraded Sachse's credit rating to "AA" indicating that city's finances are very strong. The current and prior city councils have worked hard to be good stewards of the public's funds and the credit rating upgrade is a strong indicator that those efforts paid off. Credit ratings are more than an indicator of the current fiscal well-being, they also determine the city's cost of capital. Stated simply, a better credit rating means a lower cost of capital for the city and that the taxpayer's dollars go further.

Having a sound financial position is important for a city, but it does not make a great one. Great cities are made up of people who serve. And, great municipal organizations are made of people who work hard to serve the public. I am proud to report that we are serving you in new ways this year. One new way is with the addition of a teen area to the Sachse Public Library. We were a recipient of the Ladd and Kathrine Hancher Grant this year which provided the funds to create an area where teens like to be. With that addition, we are looking forward to fostering the spark of learning and curiosity in the next generations' minds.

We also broke ground on a new park located at the corner of 5th Street and Sachse Street. Firefighters Park was made possible with a seed donation from the former Volunteers Firefighter Association, an association that represented the dedicated individuals who volunteered to keep Sachse citizens safe for so many years. By the time this newsletter reaches your mailbox, the park will be very close to completion. I encourage you to check the city's website, www.cityofsachse.com for park updates.

July 16th saw the opening of the new Wal-Mart Supercenter at State Highway 78 and Woodbridge Parkway. The 152,000 square foot retail center makes it possible for residents to shop and buy many products in town where before, travel outside the city limits was required to buy those same products. Wal-Mart is the first new major retail success for Sachse in quite some years, and many people are working hard to bring in addition commercial and retail options.

I reported other exciting updates to the audience at the July Chamber luncheon, but space here is too short to write about all of them. Ask me about them when we run into one another around town I love every chance I get to talk about the Great City of Sachse, Texas!

Sachse Fallfest - 29th Annual

Every October, Heritage Park hosts thousands of guests at Sachse Fallfest, bringing together the community and surrounding areas with entertainment for the whole family including: over 100 arts and craft vendors, 15 food vendors, a game zone with a rock-climbing wall and more, bounce town with numerous bounce houses and slides, a new car showcase, live music by local bands and various contests including men's best legs and a pet photo contest. For more information, call the Chamber of Commerce at 972-496-1212 or visit the website at www.SachseFallfest.com. **Location/Time: Heritage Park, 4408 Hudson Dr., Saturday, October 11, 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM.**

Pumpkin Prowl ~ Picture an old fashioned Easter Egg Hunt . . . Now add some autumn color and cooler weather . . . Finally, erase the eggs and insert mini-pumpkins. The Great Pumpkin is coming again to hide bright, orange pumpkins. Kids will go find them and some may even win a prize. There will be hayrides, bounce houses, and vendors. There will also be a Halloween costume contest where costumes will be judged and prizes will be awarded to the winners. NEW this year we will be showing a movie when the sun goes down so bring your blankets and lawn chairs and watch "Monster House". **Salmon Park, 4302 Williford Rd., Saturday, October 25, 6:00 PM to Sunset - Hayrides, Bounce Houses, Vendors; 6:15 PM - Pumpkin Hunt, Sunset - Movie on the Baseball Field. Ages 10 and under may hunt pumpkins.**

Have a "Pesky Pet" Problem?

City Ordinance states that "It shall be unlawful for any person/person to keep or harbor any animal which can be defined as a public nuisance, including any animal which" . . . barks, whines, meows, howls, crows, or makes other annoying noises in an excessive, continuous or unreasonable fashion or at unreasonable hours, . . ."

Drug "TAKE BACK" Program

On September 27, 2014 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the Sachse Police and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will give the public an opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft and accidents by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. Bring your medications for disposal to Sachse City Hall at 3815-B Sachse Road. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked. The only items that cannot be disposed of are aerosol type inhalers and needles of any type.

National Night Out

2014

October 7th is fast approaching, before you know it it will be here. Once again the Sachse Police Department is inviting everyone to turn on your porch light, lock your door and get out and meet your neighbors!

National Night Out is an annual nationwide event that encourages residents to get out in the community, holding block parties and getting to know their neighbors as a way to encourage crime prevention. It's a great way to promote community-police partnerships and enjoy a Texas summer evening surrounded by friends and family.

Whether it's your first time planning an event or you're continuing a tradition of years on your block, we ask that you complete a NNO block party application to help us keep track of all the events in Sachse. Remember! If you want to block your street, you **MUST** complete the application at least one week prior so that we have time to gain the approval of all who must sign off on street closures.

As we have in the past, we have NNO shirts for all of our event organizers and we will have Officers out with goodies for the little ones visiting all of the events. Chances are you will even get a visit from the Mayor and the Chief of Police.

If you are planning an event, or just have questions, you may contact Lieutenant-Marty Cassidy at mcassidy@cityofsachse.com.

Voluntary Donation Program

Sachse citizens may select to support the Library, the Animal Shelter or the Parks & Recreation Departments with a voluntary monthly contribution added to their water/sewer/garbage bill. You may return completed forms in person or by mail to Utility Billing, 3815-B Sachse Road, Sachse, TX 75048; email to utility_billing@cityofsachse.com; or fax to 972.495.9356.

Friends Fundraiser Helps

Library Programs



Support the Friends of the Sachse Library by registering your Kroger Plus Card. Visit krogercommunityrewards.com to register your card. This costs you nothing and allows a percentage of your purchases throughout the year to support your Library. All participants must re-link their card on line each year after Aug. 1st to continue to support the Friends of the Sachse Library.

Sachse Celebrates Continued Economic Growth with Opening of New Walmart

SACHSE, Texas, July 17, 2014 – Residents of Sachse, Texas no longer have to leave the city to shop for many items in town, following this month's opening of the city's first Walmart Superstore.

Located at 8015 Woodbridge Parkway, the 152,000-square-foot Walmart is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and employs 300 full- and part-time associates. The store also houses a full pharmacy with a broad array of products and services.

Store manager Mustafa Tovi has been with Walmart for 15 years, starting in 1999 as an hourly associate, and is excited for local citizens to come visit the new location.

"Walmart and the Walmart Foundation gave more than \$9,000 in grants to local community groups at our grand opening" on July 16th, Tovi said. "The company really values being part of the community, which is why I am so proud to be here at the new store" he added.



Councilman Cullen King stands with Eagle Scout Cailin Stewart while working on his Eagle Project at the Sachse Animal shelter.

Low Cost Pet Shot Clinic

Stay tuned to the Sachse website www.cityofsachse.com for the latest information on this Fall's Pet Shot Clinic.

PUBLIC SAFETY "LOCK BOX" PROGRAM

Police Chief Dennis Veach and Fire Chief Rick Coleman jointly announce the creation of the Public Safety "Lock Box Program".

The program is designed for those citizens sixty-five years of age or older, or those households where a person with "special needs" lives. Generally, "special needs" will be defined by the household making application for the service. An example might be a residence where a person lives who is restricted to a wheelchair.

This program will provide officers/fire personnel the ability to make entry into a residence in an emergency without causing damage to the building. Persons can access an application form on the City's website (www.cityofsachse.com) or by stopping by the Public Safety building at 3815-D Sachse Road.

After review and acceptance of the application, the lock box will be delivered to the residence where the house key will be placed in the lock box and locked. The key will be secured by attaching the lock box to the gas meter.

The combination for the lock as well as the underlying reason for the lock box will only be available to police or fire personnel who are responding to an emergency at the residence. The combination will be changed immediately after each usage. There is no cost for this program. The City retains ownership of the Lock Box.

City Contact Numbers

Police/Fire/Medical	911
Police Non-Emergency	972.495.2271
Fire Non-Emergency	469.429.4791
(Code Enforcement)	
City Hall	972.495.1212
(City Manager, City Secretary, Finance, Utility Billing, Municipal Court, and Human Resources)	
Library	972.530.8966
Community Development	469.429.4781
(Permits, Building Inspections, Zoning)	
Public Works	972.495.7600
Parks & Recreation	469.429.0275
Animal Control	972.675.9662
Sachse Senior Center	972.795.6282
Economic Development	469.429.4764
Chamber of Commerce	972.496.1212

City Council

Mike Felix, Mayor	214.869.1016
Jeff Bickerstaff, Mayor Pro Tem	214.869.1884
Brett Franks	214.869.1288
Charlie Ross	214.869.1357
Paul Watkins	469.628.0041
Bill Adams	214.869.1655
Cullen King	214.869.1083

www.cityofsachse.com/CityCouncil

Library Halloween Party

On Tuesday, Oct 29th at 4:00 pm dress up in your favorite costume and come to the library for fun, games, snacks, prizes, and of course, lots of candy. Join in our Halloween parade around the library and participate in our best Costume contest.

Zombie Prom

Monday, Oct 14 at 6:30 pm
Teens, ages 14 - 18 are invited to dress up in your undead best and come hang out at our Zombie Prom!

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

469.429.4770.