

*City of Lone Oak  
Economic  
Development*

- \* Lone Oak EDC meets every 3rd Tuesday of the month. at 7 pm . Everyone is welcome to attend.
- \* The “Welcome To Lone Oak” signs should be going up soon along hwy. 69 north and south.
- \* The Lone Oak EDC would like to welcome to the neighborhood

SIMON METAL BUILDINGS AND  
CONTRUCTION

&

LACABANA MEXICAN FOOD

Please come and see what the EDC is all about. We meet every 3rd Tuesday of the month at the City Hall.

The EDC currently has 1 opening seat on the board so if your interested please contact the City Hall.



- The city water tower project should be begin renovations in May.
- The city would like to ask the residents to please make sure your garbage is in a plastic or paper trash bags before putting it in a poly cart. The garbage has a tendency to blow out while the trash container is being emptied which causes our neighborhood streets to be lined with trash and debris.

**After Hours Emergency  
Number**

**903-259-2684**



**Lone Oak, Texas**

**April 2019**

**City Hall**

**Gazette**

Introducing the 2nd edition newsletter for Lone Oak. Our newsletter will print quarterly with the intent to keep our citizens more informed of recent and past events/news, updates on city ordinances, police activity and other important information. We hope you enjoy your newsletter and welcome any questions or concerns you may have as a citizen of Lone Oak.

Lone Oak City Hall Hours

Monday-Friday 8-5

Closed for Lunch 12-1

Website:





## MAYORS BLOG

Greetings from Lone Oak and your City Council. I am Wes Owen and I've been associated with the local government since 2002 when I was appointed to a vacant position by Mayor Harold Slemmons and the council. I've proudly served as Mayor Pro-Tem for the last 3 years along with city council. As you can see, I've been involved for a long time. Over that time, Lone Oak has changed slowly which is what we want, slow growth and improvement so we can control and manage. What we would like to see in Lone Oak is for established businesses to continue and not be boarded up when the owner decides to retire. Lone Oak is a great town with some awesome people and their stories. Someday, a new book (yes there is a book) will be written that captures all these stories. What I would like to see for Lone Oak is more interaction between all the various groups, churches, schools, and clubs. It is my opinion that if all the groups worked together, we could begin to draw people to visit Lone Oak and see what a great place we have. I'm devoted and determined to see Lone Oak grow and improve but I also want to maintain our history and home town appeal.

## CITY SECRETARY NEWS

Please check out the city hall website at [cityofloneoak.com](http://cityofloneoak.com)

The City of Lone Oak will hold a general election and special election on Saturday, May 4 to elect successors to four expiring city council terms of office currently held by councilmember places 1, 3, 4 and 5.

- Place 1 – Beau Turbeville
- Place 3 – Christine Barrow
- Place 5 – Wes Owens
- Place 4 – **Special Election**  
Sandra Williams and Justin (Chip) Hogue  
(Place 4 is only for a 1 year term)

[www.cityofloneoak.com](http://www.cityofloneoak.com)

## Information on Streets Maintenance Tax

- Many cities do not have the funds necessary to repair existing streets and sidewalks. The Tax Code authorizes cities to impose a special sales tax to fund maintenance of this important mobility infrastructure.
- This sales tax was first authorized by the Lone Oak city voters in 2011 at 1/4 of one percent (0.25%) and must be reauthorized every 4 years.
- It was authorized in 2015 by majority vote.
- This will again be considered by the voters on the May 4th 2019 election vote.
- One of the primary benefits of this special tax is the dedicated funding of streets maintenance from sales tax and removing the obligation from property taxes to some degree.
- The street maintenance sales tax is paid by a consumer (resident/non-resident) on taxable sales from local businesses (e.g. Short Stop, Buffalo Stop, Dollar General) and on certain online purchases of food, medicine, and certain personal services).
- If the sales tax for street maintenance is not reauthorized by the voters, the general fund of the City could be burdened with the additional cost of street maintenance, which may impact the City M&O tax rate.
- These tax funds may be used to maintain and repair existing streets BUT NOT BUILD NEW STREETS

## FY 2018 AND PRIOR Funds used for-

Since the last reauthorization in November 2015, the City has utilized these funds for:

- Replacement of culverts
- Small Tools (shovel, rakes etc.)
- Repairs to street equipment
- Several yards and tons of material of cold mix, recycled crushed concrete, recycled asphalt, rock, top soil, sandy loam and oil sand to replace failing pavement, Town Square and pot holes throughout the city streets.

## Continue Income Needed for-

- Continued maintenance and repair to existing streets
- The purchase of a tractor and special equipment used specifically for streets repair, as well as,
- General street maintenance using city workforce vs. outside contracted services

## Revenues and Expenditures

- Funds accounted for separately in a restricted fund
- Street maintenance tax generated \$15,293 in fiscal year ending 2018 for streets maintenance
- The expenditures for street maintenance for fiscal year ending 2018 amounts to \$14,988
- With carried forward balances from year 2011 to current year, balance of \$37,044
- Continued growth and revenue is expected as our commercial business grow
- Note: Expenditures potentially much high if city is to hire outside contractors for repairs and maintenance

## New Ordinance

- **Ordinance 166-2019**

### **Rental Homes Ordinance**

All rental homes inside the city limits of Lone Oak are required to be registered.

If you have not received a registration form in the mail you should soon or you can pick one up at the City Hall.

Any residential single-family, two-family, or multi-family dwelling unit, including manufactured homes, that is not owner occupied, and is rented or leased, whether or not rent is charged, whether or not the lease is memorialized in writing.

Rental Property includes, but is not limited to: properties rented or leased to students, families, or any other persons; properties in which a family member of the owner resides in the home but the owner does not (regardless of whether additional persons also reside in the home); properties used as vacation rentals and hosted short-term rentals; properties owned by a company or corporation to house employees, whether rent is paid or not; and properties where a property caretaker lives in the home but the owner does not.

Please go to [www.cityofloneoak.com](http://www.cityofloneoak.com) to read the full ordinance on rental homes

## Swimming Pools

Backyard swimming pools are considered a source of enjoyment, but if the enclosure that surrounds the pool is improperly secured, a private swimming pool can become a hazard. In an effort to prevent small children from inadvertently wandering into a pool, Texas' residential pool laws require you to fence off the pool area with a suitable barrier. An above ground pool without some type of barrier fencing is an invitation to danger, possibly even death. Small children are naturally attracted to fun areas, and a swimming pool may look like fun to them. However, few small children know how to swim, and the danger of drowning is great. If you are not at home, then children, animals and even adult strangers may wander into your pool. Because of these dangers, local building departments have developed laws for fences.

- **Ordinance 66-2017**

### **Swimming Pool**

It shall be unlawful and declared a nuisance for any property owner within the corporate limits of the City to have a swimming pool or cistern on a property that is not completely enclosed by a fence or wall at least forty-eight (48) inches above the grade measured on the side of the fence or wall which faces away from the swimming pool or cistern.

1. Every fence or wall to which this subsection applies shall be constructed so that it contains no openings, holes, or gaps except doors or gates, which allow the passage of a sphere four (4) inches in diameter.

2. Every door or gate that forms a part of a fence or wall to which this Section applies shall be constructed so that it contains no openings, holes, or gaps except doors or gates, which allow the passage of a sphere four (4) inches in diameter; and all gates or doors opening to the enclosed area shall be equipped with a self-closing and self-latching device for keeping the gate or door securely closed at all times when not in use and shall be either locked or constructed so that it cannot be opened by a child .

### Texas Laws on Home Swimming Pools

#### **Pool Must Be Enclosed by a Barrier**

Texas homeowners who have private residential swimming pools must construct a minimum 4-foot-high barrier around the pool. The barrier cannot be made of chain-link fencing or have any gaps or openings greater than 4 inches wide. Pool gates must self-close and self-latch, and be capable of being locked by a padlock, a combination lock, a built-in keypad or a key card. Latches should be situated in the upper one-quarter of the gate on the inside to prevent children from opening the barrier easily. These safety measures are designed to prevent unsupervised access to the pool.

#### **Alarm and Other Safety Systems**

Where the wall of the house serves as a boundary, you must install an alarm on the doors and windows that open onto the pool area. The alarm should sound whenever anyone enters the pool. Texas law requires you to install the alarm operation bypass feature high enough on the wall that it cannot be reached by children. If you have an above-ground pool, the steps or ladders must be capable of being locked, secured or removed when the pool is not in use.

#### **Local Governments Have Their Own Codes**

Each county and city has the power to set swimming pool codes that are more restrictive than state laws. For example, most counties have strict water clarity requirements to prevent the water from becoming stagnant or unsanitary, as well as rules regarding the ongoing repair and maintenance of the pool and its barrier.

#### **Penalties for Violations**

Because of the potential for drowning, homeowners must meet local swimming pool codes or face heavy fines. The exact amount of the fine depends on the violation, but it can be between \$200 and \$1,000 for each day the violation exists. Under the Texas Local Government Code, neighborhood protection officials have the power to repair a defective swimming pool barrier and charge the cost, including interest and added fees, to the homeowner. To recover these costs, the municipality can place a lien on the home, which is extinguished only when the expenses are paid in full.

**Be Safe and Have Fun This Summer**



