



City of Ozawkie Newsletter August 2013



Please Note:

The web address for CCR (Consumer Confidence Report) with KRWA has changed. It is now: www.krwa.net/ccr/ozawkie.

Announcements:

Dead Pine Trees: The City will remove dead pine trees (only if feasible) for city residents.

WST Billing: WST bills are due by the last BUSINESS day of the month. The late fee for all WST bills that come into the office AFTER 4:00 P.M. on the last BUSINESS day of the month, shall be subject to a late fee of \$25.00. We are going to a new system that will not allow for us to remove late fees for any reason.

New City Website: Our new website is up and running!! The City of Ozawkie would like to thank Debbie Gaskill for her hard work in building the new website and for training Michele how to make updates. There will be pictures and further updates to come on the website. We do not have everything totally complete just yet but the website is accessible and does have the majority of the information on it to assist you. Please check us out at:
www.ozawkie.org

Using the Basketball Court in the Park: Just a reminder to those who use the basketball court to please pick up your trash. There is a trash can at the shelter house in the park to place any trash in. Thanks

Ozawkie Post Office Information:

Full Service Post Office
(785) 876-2499

Monday-Friday 8:00 - 12:00/1:00-3:00

Saturday 9:00-11:30

3 Sizes of PO Boxes available for rent

TOWN HALL MEETING

At City Hall

AUGUST 12TH, 2013 AT 6:00 P.M.

FOR ALL CITIZENS OF OZAWKIE

Brian Kingsley of BG Consultants, our city engineer, will present plans for the City's new wastewater lift stations and improvements for our lagoons. He will also explain the costs involved and what that means to the citizens of Ozawkie.

There will be time for questions. Please plan to attend this meeting to be fully informed of the changes to come.

Points to Ponder—Water and Wastewater

By Council Member Nancy Leek

I have been reading the past Points to Ponder articles I have sent to you. Several things I have talked to you about have been done and some are still in process. There are cars still speeding down Delaware Drive and Kansa Drive. I still think chatter boards would be good on these two streets. I wonder if these drivers are even aware what speed they are doing? Another thought is about our utility easements. I know most citizens don't realize there is a utility easement on their property. When a water line or sewer line break, remember these lines are on the easements when utility workers come to repair them. Yes, you mow and maintain these easement areas, but you share with the city. As I told you in the February letter, many citizens have sheds, trees, fences on these easements. "If you have a tree that grows into the power lines it will be cut back or cut down. Our water and wastewater lines are no different. One is in the air, the other is in the ground. Just remember to look and think about it." With the work that needs to be done for the city, easements will become a big factor.

Our lagoon gates are half finished, I have been told this project will be completed by August 19th. As I have said before, nothing moves fast, but progress has been made.

Several City Council members and I have attended both Pump and Power Plant and the Smith and Loveless Plant. It was good to see the difference between the two companies. On July 17th, an open meeting was held by Brian Kingsley, of BG Consultants. He talked to the City Council and explained what the procedure and cost would be to our citizens to get our new sewer lift stations and upgrade our lagoons. After this meeting and talking with our Mayor, there will be a TOWN HALL MEETING before the City Council meeting on August 12th, at 6:00 p.m and Brian Kingsley will be back to explain what steps need to be done. He will also have information sheets to hand out. We must act quickly what steps need to be done. Only with the help of all of us will we succeed. Will our wastewater rates increase? Yes, but because we raised our rates in March, the rates we have to be at to get the loan will not be that high. We are currently at \$17.00 per month. We will need to increase our rates to \$26.00 to \$28.00 per month to qualify for the loan for the new sewer lift stations.

In one of my Points to Ponder articles I asked the question about which toilet paper was best for our lagoons? In another point—"If you ever look down at our sewer lift stations and our lagoons, you might think twice about what you put down your drain." About a month ago, sewer lift station #3 was so clogged with shop towels, diapers, baby wipes and other such items, Scott had to call a company to come out and unclog/clean the sewer lift station, which was at a sizeable expense to the city, (which we all paid for). I know some manufacturers claim their diapers, wipes, etc. are biodegradable, but they are not. If you are in doubt please dispose of these items in your garbage cans.

REMEMBER; this is our town, this is our sewer system, this is our water system. We are the ones who keep the city going, and are responsible to keep it beautiful, alive and well. We are responsible for the care of our city and no one else.

Please remember to come to the TOWN HALL MEETING August 12th, at 6:00 p.m. to understand how your money will be spent for the new sewer lift stations and upgrades to our lagoons.

Thanks, you City Council Member, Nancy Leek



Dear New Neighbors,

Welcome to the city of Ozawkie. We hope that you will find out community pleasant, our services helpful, our leadership capable and our residents friendly. Ozawkie is a small, fairly new community established when Perry Lake covered over the old town of Ozawkie. Many of the original townspeople or members of their families continue to live here and feel a great affinity for the city. We hope that you too will gain an appreciation and an interest in the people, ambiance, beauty and care of this city.

The city's garbage pick-up service starts early on Mondays with exception to holiday changes. The city has provided a burn area on the western edge behind our maintenance building for landscape refuse such as grass clippings, leaves, branches and non-treated wood. Our city maintenance workers do a good job of plowing streets, trimming trees and keeping the city property nicely maintained.

We do have some city ordinances common to most cities and some uniquely belonging to the city of Ozawkie. One of the unique ordinances we would like to inform new residents about is Yard Lights. In order to spare the new city the cost and maintenance of street lights, the original framers required each house to have a Stand-Alone outside Yard Light, and also that the Yard Light be turned on at dark. Besides lighting a path to your home, it provides for more safety in the neighborhood and help drivers maneuver more easily through the curvy and hilly streets. We also have ordinances for pets and nuisance ordinances that endeavor to keep our city safe, clean and preserve its value.

Ozawkie has a city council and a planning and zoning committee that invest their time, talents and energy to keep Ozawkie a safe, attractive, progressive community and a great place to live. Ozawkie, a third class municipality, has ordinance and zoning restrictions. Building permits are required for structural modifications and for auxiliary structures. For example, garden sheds fences and swimming pools. Permits are also required for placement of any new structures, for example, storage sheds on your property. If you have questions or are planning any changes to your property please contact the city office at (785) 876-2550. Our city clerk will be happy to assist you, or direct you to the person who can answer your questions.

Again, welcome neighbor! We hope this will be helpful to you as you settle in and become comfortable in your new home and surroundings.

Respectfully, The City of Ozawkie.