



DATES TO REMEMBER:

Second Tuesday of every month:

Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting at 7:00 PM at the City Center, 16930 Boot Hill Rd.

Third Tuesday of every month:

City Council Meeting at 7:00 PM at the City Center, 16930 Boot Hill Rd.

The Stagecoach Civic Club is looking for new faces for 2016. If you would like to get involved, please contact Caroline Osteen, James Schexneider or Brenda Rutt at 713-249-2203 or bfrutt@gmail.com..

PUBLIC INFORMATION REQUESTS:

To request a copy of the council minutes or financial reports, etc, please explain in detail the information you are requesting, send the written request to:

City of Stagecoach
16930 Boot Hill Rd
Stagecoach TX 77355

You may also call 281-259-0224, fax 281-259-7720, or stop by City Hall in person.

FOR A COPY OF THIS NEWSLETTER TO BE MAILED TO YOUR HOME REGULARLY, LET US KNOW!



FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK:

Dear Stagecoach Friends and Neighbors,

There is not a lot to report from our recent City Council meeting, the first in 2016. If you were considering attending a short council meeting, this would have been a good choice.

The city is currently experiencing a growth spurt as there are eight new houses in various stages of construction in Stagecoach. I would like to thank our Planning & Zoning Commission for their hard work in reviewing all of the data submitted by property owners to obtain building permits. Our current commission members have a vast amount of industry experience in the process.

With all of the building going on, we might have a city population of 600 by the end of the year. The current unofficial census of Stagecoach residents is approximately 562.

I would like to thank Curtis Bryant, Wade Dabbs, Mike Jackson, Archie McClure, Paul McCormick, Terry Rutt, James Schexnieder, Mark Tevebaugh, Conner Webster and Mike Wethington for mowing, roadside trash pick-up and other maintenance projects. Since the city has no paid maintenance personnel, volunteer help is a necessity and always appreciated. Terry Rutt, our director of public works, is always looking for help, so give him a call.

Our police department thanks all citizens for doing a great job of reporting suspicious people and activity and of providing vacation watch information.

Sincerely,

Galen Mansee

2015 Stagecoach Farms Civic Club's HALLOWEEN HAYRIDE/COSTUME CONTEST

The hayride this past year was a success! It was at Lake Hardin Park. Thanks to all who participated!





There will be an Easter Egg hunt in the Spring! Details to follow in the next edition.



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS:

What is the Stagecoach Public Works?

-Broadly speaking, public works involves the maintenance of roads, waterways, dams, road culverts, trees etc. Generally, if it has to do with our outdoor environment or city infrastructure, it is a public works issue.

-There are no paid city employees responsible for Public Works; it is all volunteer and I am the Current Director. There is no city engineer, surveyor, inspector, hydrologist, etc.

-Our equipment includes a front-end loader backhoe, a dump truck, a brush-cutting tractor and then various smaller power tools and hand tools, so what we can do is limited.

What do you see from the public works department?

-General upkeep and maintenance of the City Center and the equipment.

-Filling potholes in the road. Usually every few months you will see me driving around and putting patch in holes. Unfortunately, with our limited tools and resources, there is only so much that can be done for roads that are in a general state of failure (have numerous cracks extending for prolonged distances). The fix for these is more of a long-term proposition in working with the city to allocate funds for replacement.

-Remove dead trees from the roadways and easements, as well as trying to keep them mowed. However, keep in mind that legally it is the responsibility of the property owner to maintain the easement in the front of the property, so owners should be working to take down their own dead trees, cut their own ditches and keep their own culverts open. This will allow the city to focus its efforts on the common areas such as the dams and general roadways.

-We maintain a relationship with the county so that we can get their assistance when items come along that are beyond our scope and scale. For example, we have had the county conduct some brush-cutting along the roads a few years back, and we had them remove some logs from the dams and spillways.

What does this mean for the private resident?

-Your property is your responsibility. This includes up to the street, so ditches, culverts, trees, etc. The city has an easement that extends 30 feet from the center of the road, so we have certain “rights” in this area, but responsibility remains with the property owner.

-Look for opportunities to volunteer with the city. Contact the city secretary and provide your contact information and she will pass it along.

-Take responsibility for what you see in the city. Trash in your ditch? Feel free to pick it up. Dead tree across the road? If you are capable, nobody is going to complain if you take the initiative and clear it (thanks to those citizens in the past who have done this!). Culvert clogged and it is causing flooding on the road or adjacent property? You are legally obligated as the property owner to remedy. Dead trees on your property that are in danger of falling on the road or on adjacent property? Take steps to get them down safely as they are ultimately the property owner’s responsibility if they do fall. In short, if there is any potentially hazardous situation on your property and you do not take steps to correct it, you could be held criminally and civilly liable. Even if it is not hazardous, but just unsightly. Take pride in our city and take steps to make the situation better.

-The biggest thing is DO NOT BLOCK WATERWAYS OR PUT REFUSE IN THEM. The waterways are actually under the control of the State. It is illegal to divert the flow of a naturally occurring waterway. It is against the law to put any sort of trash or impediment into a waterway, and this includes our ditches. We have a serious issues with folks putting dead trees or other refuse into waterways, I guess thinking that a good rain will wash them away. The bad news is...that is true! So where do they end up? They end up down in our spillways, and have the potential for creating serious blockage or structure damage. This creates enormous financial exposure for the city (which means ultimately for our property owners).

-Don’t litter. I periodically take my dog for a walk and I am constantly picking up trash. It’s clear in some cases from what I am finding, it is NOT from people passing through but rather from residents who apparently think it is okay to throw their empty wrappers or “spit-cups” out the window and into our ditches. If you are not out here to enjoy the natural beauty of our City and to help preserve it, there are plenty of neighborhoods I can refer you to where residents don’t care if things are trashy.

-If you see an issue (pothole, clogged culvert, dangerous tree situation, etc.) contact the City Secretary. If you see someone out working to maintain and improve the City, given them a friendly wave. Again, we are volunteers doing this on our own time because we love this city and care for our residents.

Current issues in the city are that it has been so wet for the past several months that it has made it difficult to get out and do any work. We have some roads that are generally failing and I am sure those of you who live on them know where they are. We have a pretty significant wash-out issue at the Lake Hardin Park, right near the curve in the road (you will see a safety cone there). The rains are washing out under the road in this location, so be extremely careful near this spot. Hopefully things will dry out in the weeks ahead and we can take a run at fixing

it. There are a lot of dead trees still in the City. If you think they are in danger of falling onto powerlines, call CenterPoint Energy and often they will get them safely on the ground.

Public works would like to give a big thank you to our Chief of Police Mike Wethington. In addition to his "normal" duties, Mike is the guy who helps keep our equipment running and is often out there doing the actual work (you might see him on the tractor cutting the ditches or trying to remove dead trees from a spillway). Thanks Mike!

Thanks to all residents who work to make our city a better place for all of us to live!

Terry Rutt, Director of Public Works



ANIMAL REMINDERS:

Please remember that dogs are not allowed to roam loose within the City. Dogs must be under the control of the owner, on a leash, within an enclosure or on the owner's property. Also, dogs must be registered with the City. The cost is \$5.00 and you will be issued a City of Stagecoach tag. This will help to identify your pet in case your pet does get loose. All dogs must be current on their rabies vaccinations.

Microchips are great if your pet gets lost - especially if they are picked up as a stray. However, the easiest way to identify who an animal belongs to is to keep a collar and a name tag on them. Please help us keep to your pets safe. Also, please be advised that any building, of any size, that is used to shelter animals must be at least 50 feet from the house on any adjacent lot.



No swine are allowed to be kept in the City.



RECYCLING:

As you know, WCA is now providing curbside recycling. Recycled items will be picked up on Mondays, after regular trash pickup. Please contact City Secretary if you need a blue recycle bin. There are several extra bins at the City Center, please come by if you need one.

Acceptable Items:

Paper: Newspaper, Magazines, Catalogs, Junk Mail and Envelopes, Office Paper, Construction Paper, Colored Paper, Folders, Paper Bags, Phone Books, Holiday Cards and Greeting Cards

Cardboard: Corrugated Cardboard Boxes, Paperboard Boxes (cereal, soda/beer, egg, shoe boxes, etc.)

Containers: Aluminum Cans, Tin Cans, Steel Cans, Empty Aerosol Cans, Aluminum Foil, Plastics #1- #5 and #7 (milk, soda, water, juice, shampoo, detergent, pool supplies, pet food, etc., excluding Styrofoam), Metal Pots and Pans, Copper, Scrap Metal (nails and screws, gutters, etc.)

Unacceptable Recyclable Material: PLASTIC BAGS, Styrofoam, Pizza Boxes (because of the oils), Coat Hangers, Paint and Solvent Containers, Light Bulbs, Mirrors, Windows, Dishes and Cups, Pyrex Pans, Wet or Soiled Paper, Paper Towels, Facial and Toilet Tissue, Disposable Plates and Cups, Milk and Juice Cartons (wax-board containers), Wrapping Paper.

LAKE HARDIN PARK REMINDERS:

- ❖ Lake and Park use is restricted to civic club members in good standing with their dues, and their invited guests only. This area is owned by the civic club, it is not an open "common area" of the city.
- ❖ Swimming in Lake Hardin is allowed from the beach, and into the roped in area and swimming platform. All other areas are off limits.
- ❖ Fishing from the land at both lakes is allowed from the marked and designated areas only. FISHING IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN IN THE SWIMMING AREA.
- ❖ Wildlife at the park (other than fish) are allowed their freedom, do not harass any animals, such as ducks and turtles.
- ❖ Swimming is done AT YOUR OWN RISK! There is no lifeguard on duty, and anyone under the age of 13 must be accompanied by an adult on any park grounds. If you are not a strong swimmer, you should not enter the lake for any reason.
- ❖ Alligator sightings have been reported in the past. If you see an alligator, do not try to interfere, call the Stagecoach Police Dept. Use common sense and never approach or harass an alligator.
- ❖ Please use the provided trash containers to dispose of your trash. Wayne Oliver has graciously offered to set the cans out for pickup each week. If you see trash laying around, please be a good citizen and dispose of it property.
- ❖ No glass containers are allowed at either of the parks or lakes.



LAKE HARDIN PARK RESERVATIONS:

Civic Club members may reserve Lake Hardin park on a first come, first served basis. The fee is \$50 per day. The facilities include the park, restrooms, pavilion, the lake and swimming platform. For information about reservations contact Mark Paulson at 832-691-6951 or stagecoachmark@gmail.com



Barb's Hen Scratchings:

Good New Year to everyone! Another year has come and gone in the way time does. I, myself just turned 80! We have lived in Stagecoach since 1968...long time and seen many changes. But one thing does not change...the peace and quietness we have here in our community.

Ok, this is a new endeavor for me. An article about and for chickens. Spring is just around the corner and it is time to start thinking about new chickens, adding to your flock or just getting the chicken yard and houses cleaned up. I don't know about you, but the past year has been so rainy and the mud so bad, my place is truly a mess. I call it "The Happy Hens Place." I do believe my hens are "happy" ones... I have a mixed flock of about 30 or so large laying hens, various pullets coming up and a swarm of roosters awaiting the butcher. Anyone need a rooster? Let me know. Every week I get enough eggs to sell that keep my chickens in food and amenities.

Chickens sort of grow on a person, and collecting the beautiful eggs is truly a big plus. This makes all the work (and there is work) worthwhile. I know everyone may not want a flock the size of mine, but just a few hens can provide one with plenty of wonderful tasting and nutritious eggs for your family and others. I do believe that once one tastes a fresh backyard egg, they will really see the vast difference between these and other store eggs.

I just met some great folks yesterday who also have a few chickens and we talked chickens for a while over wonderful cups of tea. Had a great time. In our time, I brought up the thought of a

Chicken Group. With the idea of folks of like mind getting together every once in a while to talk chickens, learn from each other, sharing their cares/pleasures, tackle varmint problems and take care of any other problems or helping each other out at times. Yes, there is plenty of advice on the internet, but who can you truly believe? Maybe someone who has had hands on experience in our area. I know I have questions at times and no one to answer them. If this idea meets with the approval of others of like mind about chickens, then let's see what we can do to help each other!

Contact me, Barb Alexander, at 281-259-8213. Leave a message if we are not home.

Have a Good Clucking Day!

Barb

BEREAVEMENT COMMITTEE INFORMATION:

As residents, you are encouraged to do your part by helping to donate clothing or food or anything else, it would be much appreciated. If you have any information you would like to post in this section, please contact Jody Mansee at 281-252-8803.



New Stagecoach residents, welcome to our community!

There will be a real estate report in the next edition.

Stagecoach Express Editor: Mark Paulson 

832-691-6951 stagecoachmark@gmail.com

FIND US ON THE WEB:

www.stagecoachfarmssc.org


Next issue deadline: 3/28/2016

BUSINESSES SUPPORTING STAGECOACH:

If you are interested in advertising in this newsletter, business card ads are just \$10/yr! contact Brenda Rutt at [713-249-2203](tel:713-249-2203) - bfrutt@gmail.com, or Mark Paulson at [832-691-6951](tel:832-691-6951) - stagecoachmark@gmail.com



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