



City of Sandy Oaks

NEWSLETTER

Volume 4, Issue 2

www.cityofsandyoaks.com

September 2019

From the Mayor's Desk:

As the current fiscal year comes to an end on September 30, many things have been accomplished this year including establishing the City Marshal Office, creating of the Municipal Court, hiring of personnel for public works, animal control, and city administration. The basic services a city provides are fast becoming a reality for Sandy Oaks. Street lights have been expanded for more coverage, traffic patrols are working to make our streets safer, unsafe and hazardous concerns are being addressed, and animal control has addressed a great many strays and animal control concerns. The city will soon have its own kennel to aid in reducing costs associated with ensuring animal care is both humane and in compliance with state regulations.

A number of committees have been created, including an Animal Control Advisory, Planning & Zoning Commission, and one for the Parks. These groups meet publicly and make recommendations to the city council for consideration. In November, voters will elect council members and also vote on propositions related to abolishing the VIA tax, creation of funding programs for police/crime and streets/drainage as well as a bond to cover road repairs.

A Comprehensive Master Plan is currently being developed to identify both short and long range plans for the city. There will be public hearings to get citizen input in the coming months.

SAWS recently assessed all of the fire hydrants in the city to ensure they are in good working order. Future plans will include additional fire hydrants for more coverage as part of the Master Plan development.

This year has been a very busy and rewarding one as much progress has been made and more is currently being planned.

Honorable Mayor Ball

A reminder, recyclables are picked up every other Wednesday and regular trash pick up is every Thursday. Trash bins should not be left curbside throughout the week. Let's all pitch in and make our city more attractive.

If you are travelling and wish to have your home checked on while you are away, the Marshal's Office is offering a confidential form available to residents to identify the address, dates and other pertinent information. By completing this form, your residence will be checked at least once a day by the City Marshal or Deputy. Forms are available at City Hall or online at <https://cityofsandyoaks.com/out-of-town-form/>

Mobile Vet Clinic and Microchip Events

During September, several mobile vet clinics and microchip events were scheduled. Discussions are also underway to have a regular monthly mobile vet clinic and microchip events.

As a reminder, ALL dogs and cats are required to be vaccinated, micro chipped and spayed/neutered.

The current Ordinance 2019-131 can be found on the city website at <https://cityofsandyoaks.com/animalcontrol/>

Elections To Be Held In Sandy Oaks

For the first time in the history of Sandy Oaks, elections will be held at City Hall on November 5. There will be no early voting at City Hall.

Voter registration cards are available for both new voters and new residents.

Animal Control

The city council approved the purchase of a kennel to house animals picked up within the city. This will aid in reducing the cost of boarding that has been done at Oak Hills Animal Hospital and decrease time spent with travel, improving times for owners to reclaim lost pets, and better utilization of resources. The project should be online in the next few months. Look for more information on the city website. <https://cityofsandyoaks.com/animalcontrol/>

If you are missing a pet, be sure and check the city website where animals currently in city custody are displayed as well as animals available for adoption. Fosters and volunteers are needed to assist with the animal control program.

Permits for Garage Sales

The City Council recently passed an ordinance requiring a permit for garage sales. There is no fee for the permit and anyone setting up for a garage sale will be required to fill out the permit request. As a reminder, signs are not allowed to be placed on traffic signs or electric poles. Signs can be placed on stakes along the roadway and must be picked up within 48 hours or a \$50 per day fine will be charged for any signs displayed after the end after the garage sale. Permits can be obtained at city hall, 4451 Hickory Haven, Monday-Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm.

November Elections

November's ballot will include council members and the following:
PROPOSITION A: The issuance of not to exceed \$800,000 of City of Sandy Oaks, Texas General Obligation Bonds for streets, sidewalks, and drainage improvements, and the levying of a tax in payment thereof.
PROPOSITION B: Shall the VIA Metropolitan Transit Authority be continued in the City of Sandy Oaks, Texas?
PROPOSITION C: The adoption of a sales and use tax within the City of Sandy Oaks, Texas at the rate of one-half (1/2) of one percent (1%) contingent on the results of the election for withdrawal from the VIA Metropolitan Transit Authority.

Who Do I Call?

Dial 911 for fire, medical, police emergencies
Bexar County Sheriff non-emergency 210-335-6000
City Marshal 210-850-6437
Post Office (Elmendorf) 210-635-9258

City Hall 210-607-0834
Animal Control 210-870-7894
Tiger Sanitation 210-333-4287
Septic Permits 210-335-6700

Alamo Broadband 210-587-7201
AT&T 800-288-2020
CPS Energy 210-353-2222
SAWS 210-704-7297

City Marshal

The City Council has appointed Felipe Lopez to fill the position of City Marshal. The role of the City Marshal is to address traffic and safety issues, answer complaints and enforce ordinances, and keep the peace. **Bexar County Sheriff's Office will continue to respond to calls within our city.** All calls needing law enforcement response should be made to 9-1-1 for emergencies and 210-335-6000 for non-emergencies. For code violations and enforcement, call 210-850-6437.

Placing trash, debris, tree limbs, or brush along the easements is a violation, and may result in a citation. Tires must be properly disposed of and are not allowed to be placed for trash or bulk pick up.

Burning

The burning of household trash or domestic waste materials is prohibited in the City by ordinance 2018-118. The burning of brush as defined by the same ordinance is allowed by using the approved International Fire Code, 307.4.

The location for open burning shall not be less than 50 feet from any structure, and provisions shall be made to prevent the fire from spreading to within 50 feet of any structure.

Exceptions:

1. Fires in approved containers that are not less than 15 feet from a structure.
2. The minimum required distance from a structure shall be 25 feet where the pile size is 3 feet or less in diameter and 2 feet or less in height.

An approved container is a burn barrel or other fire containment structure with a wire mesh screen used to prevent the spread of sparks and flames.

Master Plan Town Hall Meetings

The City has hired Mendez Engineering to develop a Master Plan, which is a long-range planning tool for municipal staff, decision-makers, and citizens to direct the growth and physical development of a community for 10 years, 20 years, or more. This plan will establish a vision for Sandy Oaks based on input directly from the community and will guide the plans recommendations, and will continue to shape the future of Sandy Oaks through the review of future development proposals, allocating capital improvements funding, planning for public services and facilities, and many other applications. When these town hall sessions are scheduled, signs will be placed around the city announcing the dates, times, and location.

Digz Liquors

3712 New Mathis, Suite 8
Hours 11:00 AM - 9:00 PM (Mon-Sat)
(210) 782-7025

Cowboy Insurance

3712 New Mathis Rd #7
(210)-442-8255

El Guero Loco

3712 New Mathis, Suite 2-3
Hours M-T 6am-4pm; W-F 6am-8pm;
Sat 7am-8pm; Sun 7am-2pm
(210) 892-1706

J&S Smokehouse

3710 Waterwood Pass
Hours: Tue-Sat 11:00am - 7:30pm
(210) 605-4142

Belynn's Glamorous Nails

3712 New Mathis Rd #6
(210) 892-2407

Las Valentinas Meat Market

3712 New Mathis, Suite 1
(210) 892-2223

Super Express/Valero

3702 Waterwood Pass Dr
(210) 626-3702

Planet 420

3712 New Mathis
Hours 10:00 AM - 10:00 PM 7 days
(210) 573-6526

Dollar General

3708 New Mathis Rd
(210) 390-1533

When consumers patronize local small businesses, they are essentially giving money back to their local community. A thriving local business will generate high levels of revenue, which means that the business will contribute higher sales taxes that benefit the community. A thriving small business also can improve property values throughout a community, improving every homeowner's bottom line.



City of Sandy Oaks
PO Box 828
Elmendorf, TX 78112

Copies of this newsletter in Spanish can be found on the City's website or at City Hall, located at 4451 Hickory Haven (City Park).

Puede encontrar copias de este boletín en español en el sitio web de la Ciudad o en el Ayuntamiento, ubicado en 4451 Hickory Haven (City Park).

On November 5, 2019, voters will be casting ballots on a number of items. In addition to filling city council positions, there are important Propositions related to property and sales tax. In an effort to “prime the pump” in addressing road maintenance and repair in the City, the city council has proposed a bond to provide funding for an overlay treatment of almost 6 miles of roadways in the City. This represents approximately 20% of the total road surfaces. By contrast, the available budget each year will cover about one (1) mile of roadway. The cost is higher addressing short stretches because each project requires engineering costs and equipment mobilization costs.

PROPOSITION A

What is a bond?

A bond is similar to a home mortgage. It is a contract to repay borrowed money with a stated interest rate over time. The interest rate is generally lower than commercially available rates because of the credit quality and favorable federal tax treatment applicable to the debt of a governmental entity.

What is a Bond Program?

A bond is a form of debt that provides local government with funds to finance large capital improvement projects. A Bond Program includes both the authority to issue bonds and a listing of the purposes for which the funds may be used. General Obligation Bond Programs, such as the City of Sandy Oaks 2019 Bond Program, require voter approval.

Does the proposed 2019 Bond Program anticipate an increase in the City property tax rate?

Proposition A of the 2019 Bond Program does require an increase in property tax, and if approved, property taxes are expected to increase a total of about 4 cents. For a property assessed at \$100,000 the tax increase equates to \$40.00 each year.

How are funds repaid that are received through the issuance of General Obligation Bonds?

The City uses a portion of its property tax revenues to repay the General Obligation Bonds in the form of annual principal and interest payments.

Why do you issue bonds to pay for City projects rather than pay for projects with cash?

Bond financing funds large-scale capital improvement projects and allows the City’s operating budget to focus on annual and ongoing costs such as personnel, operations and public service programs. By issuing bonds, we can invest in those projects more quickly and avoid deferred maintenance costs.

What projects will be covered by the 2019 Bond Program?

The work proposed is maintenance of existing roadways within the city. This work does not include reconstructing any roadways to the full depth of the structural base material. A surface treatment (chip seal) is the preferred method of providing an improved driving surface on existing roadways. Where the structural function of the base is failing, as indicated by large potholes or wheel rutting, the base material will be removed and new base material will be installed and properly prepared to receive a new surface treatment.

The surface treatment method is a reasonable and inexpensive method to upgrade the driving surface and is a good option for the City of Sandy Oaks. For more heavily travelled roads, a double course can provide a lengthy life span for the driving surface. On local roadways, a single course will usually provide a similar life span. Each of these will typically have a life span of around eight years before a new surface may be needed due to loss of rock, wearing of the driving surface or penetration of the rock into the asphalt resulting in a slick surface.

Project scopes, locations and costs are estimates based on information currently available and are, therefore, subject to reasonable change on the basis of new and refined information up to the time of completion.

CITY OF SANDY OAKS, TEXAS
 BOND ELECTION
 (la elección para bonos en la ciudad de Sandy Oaks, Texas)
 November 5, 2019
 (día 5 de noviembre del 2019)

	CITY OF SANDY OAKS PROPOSITION A	LA CIUDAD DE SANDY OAKS PROPOSICIÓN A
<input type="checkbox"/> FOR (a favor)	“THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$800,000 OF CITY OF SANDY OAKS, TEXAS GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS FOR STREETS, SIDEWALKS, AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS, AND THE LEVYING OF A TAX IN PAYMENT THEREOF”	“LA EMISION DE BONOS DE OBLIGACIÓN GENERAL DE LA CIUDAD DE SANDY OAKS, TEXAS, QUE NO EXCEDA DE \$800,000, PARA CALLES, ACERAS Y MEJORAS DE DRENAJE, Y LA IMPOSICIÓN DE UN IMPUESTO PARA EL PAGO DE LOS MISMOS”
<input type="checkbox"/> AGAINST (en contra)		

Through June of 2016, all property owners in what is known as Waterwood subdivision were assessed an annual maintenance fee of \$180. Once the City of Sandy Oaks assumed all assets and liabilities from the developer in 2016, the annual fee was eliminated and has been replaced by a property tax. For many property owners, the amount of tax they are assessed is less than the previous maintenance fee. This fee was the same for every property owner regardless of the value of the property.

With a property tax, owners are able to take advantage of exemptions and their taxes are assessed based on the value of their property. The property tax levied and collected is used for programs such as police, public works, animal control, parks maintenance and projects and administrative functions.

PROPOSITION B AND PROPOSITION C

For over 40 years, sales taxes within Bexar County have been subject to an MTA (Metropolitan Transit Authority) tax. Locally, this is known as VIA tax and is authorized to be assessed at one-half of one percent (.5%) of sales tax. Municipalities have the option of abolishing the tax, if the voters so choose.

In 2014, the ballot asked voters if they wanted to keep VIA. The results of that vote were 63.6% in favor of keeping the VIA tax, with 302 total votes. State statute require that this measure not be put before voters for the next 5 years.

From 2015 through 2018, city leaders have engaged with VIA to bring services to Sandy Oaks, however, there are no plans at this time for VIA to offer services to the residents of Sandy Oaks.

In 2019, the City of Sandy Oaks is proposing that the MTA tax be abolished and those funds instead be allocated equally towards two programs: Police/Crime Fund and Streets/Drainage Fund. It is estimated that the value of the MTA tax will be \$50,000 for the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

There are two propositions for voters to consider. Proposition B asks voters if the MTA should continue in Sandy Oaks and Proposition C asks voters to adopt the one-half of one percent as a sales and use tax. For Proposition B, a vote "AGAINST" will abolish the tax; for Proposition C, a vote "FOR" will adopt the available one-half of one percent for municipal purposes.

	CITY OF SANDY OAKS PROPOSITION B	LA CIUDAD DE SANDY OAKS PROPOSICIÓN B
<input type="checkbox"/> FOR (a favor) <input type="checkbox"/> AGAINST (en contra)	"SHALL THE VIA METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY BE CONTINUED IN THE CITY OF SANDY OAKS, TEXAS?"	"¿DEBERÁ CONTINUAR LA VIA METROPOLITANA DE TRANSPORTE EN LA CIUDAD DE SANDY OAKS, TEXAS?"

	CITY OF SANDY OAKS PROPOSITION C	LA CIUDAD DE SANDY OAKS PROPOSICIÓN C
<input type="checkbox"/> FOR (a favor) <input type="checkbox"/> AGAINST (en contra)	"THE ADOPTION OF A SALES AND USE TAX WITHIN THE CITY OF SANDY OAKS, TEXAS AT THE RATE OF ONE-HALF (1/2) OF ONE PERCENT (1%) CONTINGENT ON THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTION FOR WITHDRAWAL FROM THE VIA METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY."	"LA ADOPCION DE UN IMPUESTO DE VENTAS LOCALES Y USO DENTRO DE LA CIUDAD DE SANDY OAKS, TEXAS, A UNA TASA DE LA MITAD (1/2) DEL UNO POR CIENTO (1%) SUPEDITADO A LOS RESULTADOS DE LA ELECCIÓN PARA LA RETIRADA DE LA VIA METROPOLITANA DE TRANSPORTE."

Your local government is working hard to present the best options for keeping City property taxes low. They are also working to find the best options for utilization of resources to provide the public services necessary to address health and safety and infrastructure needs of the community.