

CITY OF TOMBALL
401 MARKET STREET
TOMBALL, TEXAS 77375
WWW.CI.TOMBALL.TX.US

Spring 2008

Volume 16, Issue 2

HOMETOWN *Link*

A Message from The Mayor



Hello again. We have had an exciting first quarter in Tomball with a number of wonderful accomplishments. Among those are:

- * Adoption of the Zoning Ordinance
- * Development of a Five Year Strategic Plan
- * Completion of the Citizen's Survey
- * The Brown Road extension is underway
- * David Kauffman has been hired as the new Public Works Director
- * Kelly Violette has been hired as our new City Planner/Community Development Coordinator
- * Elaine Chrisman has been hired as our part-time Special Events Coordinator

We are planning summer events centered around our newly restored Depot...Keep the Second Saturdays of each month free!

As we continue to move forward in 2008, we will accomplish much more. This is our Strategic Plan for 2008 through 2012. It outlines the City's goals and vision for Tomball. We developed this plan to ensure that as we grow, we develop into a city our citizens can be proud of.

As always, if you would like to talk to me about your vision for the community, you may call me at 281-290-1007, or email me at gfgan@ci.tomball.tx.us. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Strategic Plan 2008-2012



2007-2008 City Council

Gretchen Fagan, Mayor
David Quinn, Mayor Pro Tem
Roy Lazenby, Councilman
Bill Webb, Councilman
Mary Harvey, Councilman
Warren Driver, Councilman

Infrastructure

Improve downtown parking and drainage

2008-09 Goals:

- Game plan for downtown
- Depot area improvements
- Parking & drainage improvements
- Plans for railroad corridor

Council-Staff-Public Relations

Improve customer service

2008-09 Goals:

- Update phone system
- Increase access to public
- Customer service training
- Accountability for services

City of Tomball ~ 401 Market Street ~ Tomball, TX 77375

A Clear Vision for Tomball

The City Council envisions major players coming together to create the future of Tomball to include:

- A sense of community
- A place to be proud of
- Good mobility
- Pedestrian friendly
- A positive business environment
- A home town feel with excellent:
 - Education
 - Healthcare
 - Churches
 - Public safety – police, fire, EMS
 - Utilities/infrastructure/drainage
 - Internet/wireless/accessible web site
 - Public facilities with adaptive re-use of facilities
 - Mobility
 - Pedestrian friendly

2008-09 Goal:

- Hire consultant for city-wide visioning process

Identity – Branding

Become a destination city with many activities to draw people here

- Festivals - start with summer 2008 and expand
 - Downtown movie nights
 - Arts
 - Music and concerts
- Communicate "brand" to citizens

2008-09 Goals:

- Plan summer event series
- Create e-newsletter announcing events

Economic Development

Become a regional hub for retail, medical, financial and high tech businesses

2008-09 Goals:

- Tax abatement policy
- Development process improvement
- Railroad overlay district
- Diversify tax base

Copies of the Strategic Plan and the Mayor's State of the City Address are available online at www.ci.tomball.tx.us.

Upcoming Events

Election News



The Regular City Officer's Election will be held on Saturday, May 10, 2008 from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm for Council Positions 1 and 5. On the ballot for Position 1 are Derek Townsend and incumbent David R. Quinn. Position 5 candidates are incumbent Warren Driver and David Mayes.

Early voting will begin on April 28, 2008 and end on May 6, 2008, with two late hour, 12-hour voting periods on Tuesday, April 29, and Tuesday, May 6. Early voting begins each day at 7:45 a.m. Both Early Voting and Election Day polling will be at City Hall.

Deadlines to File Residential Protests with Harris County Appraisal District

The deadline for filing residential protests with the Harris County Appraisal District is April 30, 2008 or the date indicated on your appraisal notice. However, homeowners who miss that deadline may still file a protest without penalty until the later of June 2, 2008 or 30 days after the date their appraisal notice is mailed. You may be able to file your protest on-line using iFile at <http://www.hcad.org/ifile/>.

Development Review Committee

Are you a developer or property owner who needs guidance and direction concerning City of Tomball development policies and requirements? Do you need to speak to city officials about a potential development project? If you are planning a development or a project, please schedule a meeting with the City's Development Review Committee (DRC).



Held every Wednesday from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Public Works Building (501 James Street), the DRC meet-

ings are designed to get you the information you need to make your development or project run as smoothly as possible. These meetings will provide guidelines, timeframes, and rules that must be followed.

If you would like to set up a meeting with the DRC, please contact Brandy Pate at 281-290-1405. All appointments must be scheduled before 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday. Please remember to bring your engineers, architects, and surveyors that will be involved in your project.

Calendar of Events

May

- 5 Council Meeting
- 10 Election Day
- 19 Council Meeting
- 26 Memorial Day, City Offices Closed

June

- 2 Council Meeting
- 7 Hazardous Waste Recycling Event
- 16 Council Meeting

July

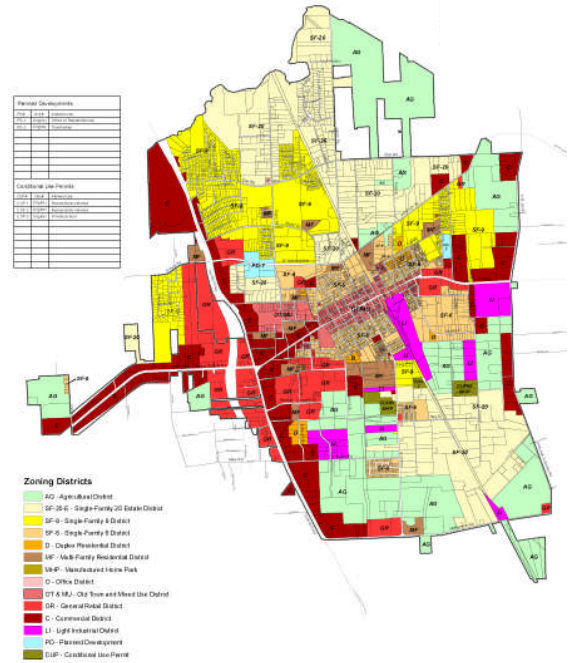
- 4 Independence Day - City Offices Closed
- 7 Council Meeting
- 21 Council Meeting

What's New

Zoning Ordinance

On February 4, 2008, the City of Tomball officially adopted the City's Zoning Ordinance. Copies of the Ordinance and the map can be downloaded from the City of Tomball's website at www.ci.tomball.tx.us/boards_commissions/planning_commission. A hard copy of each is also available for purchase at Tomball's Public Works Building located at 501 James Street.

If there are any questions, or if you would like to apply for a change in your property's Zoning designation, please call the City Planner/Community Development Coordinator, Kelly Violette, at 281-290-1491. You may also email her at kviolette@ci.tomball.tx.us.

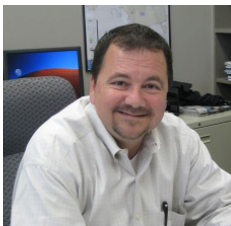
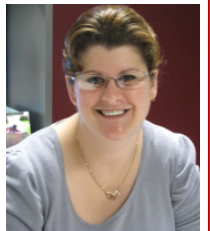


Online Bill Payments

Online billpay is now available for Tomball utility customers as well as those needing to pay a municipal court fine for which appearance in front of the judge is not required. Customers may either go to the City website at www.ci.tomball.tx.us and select the "Online Payments" options on the home page or may go to the payment site directly at <https://tomballtx.municipalonlinepayments.com>.

New Faces

Kelly Violette was hired in March as the City's City Planner/Community Development Coordinator. Mrs. Violette previously served as the City of Riverside, California's Associate Planner, and more recently served as the Executive Assistant for the Tomball Economic Development Corporation.



The City of Tomball is pleased to announce the hiring of David Kaufmann as the new Public Works Director. Mr. Kauffman has 20 years of experience in public works and was previously the Director of Public Works in Hondo, Texas.

New to the Police Department are Officers Jennifer Murray and Stephen Tucker.

Recently hired at Public Works are Gary Lane, Michael Meyer, and John Valadez.

Did You Know?

Garbage Service Reminders

City of Tomball Ordinance #82-25 adopted 12-1982, requires all refuse be placed in bags, not cans with a limit of 25 bags per pick-up day. Place your bags at the curbside by 7 AM on your pick-up day. No containers of any type will be emptied. The City's current solid waste contract requires residents to use plastic bags with sufficient strength and cannot exceed 40 pounds.

The City provides free plastic garbage (100 bags per year) to residents, or you may purchase your own bags. The free bags are available during normal business hours at the Public Works Building at 501 James St. If you are physically unable to take your garbage to your pick-up location, Waste Management provides front-door collection. To see if you qualify for this service or for other questions about your garbage service, please call Public Works at 281-290-1400.

Boards and Commissions

If you are interested in serving on a City Board or Commission please go to our website at www.ci.tomball.tx.us/boards_commissions and complete an application. Applications should be returned to Doris Speer at City Hall (401 Market Street). You may also call Ms. Speer at 281-290-1002 with any questions.

Help Wanted

The City of Tomball is always looking for hard working and dedicated individuals. If you would like to apply for a job with the City, please visit our web site at www.ci.tomball.tx.us or City Hall to see what positions are open. You may also call 281-290-1018 to get current job postings. Applications may be obtained on our website or by visiting City Hall.

For Your Safety



Don't dig in streets, alleys or easements until you call DIG TESS, who will notify the City. The City of Tomball will then mark its underground gas lines with yellow stakes, flags or spray paint. Make this request 48 hours in advance. This service is available at "NO CHARGE".

800-DIG-TESS (344-8377)

Service Flags to Support our Troops

City Council honors our Tomball area service men and women who are currently deployed. A blue star flag, designed to hang in a front window of the family home, is presented to the family.

Service Men and Women honored at recent council meetings:

-  Private First Class Jacob Weldon Currington - Iraq
-  Corporal Hunter R. McCauley - Iraq

If you have an immediate family member serving in the armed forces who is a graduate from a Tomball school or is a Tomball resident and you wish to have them honored at an upcoming City Council meeting, please call 281-290-1002 to speak to Doris Speer for more information.



Recyclable Waste & E-Waste Collection Event

When: Saturday, June 7, 2007

Time: 9 a.m. till Noon

Where: Tomball City Hall

Who can participate:

Residents from Tomball, Harris County, and surrounding areas

For more information please call 281-351-5484

Acceptable Items Include:

BOPA Waste

- Batteries
- Oil
- Paint
- Antifreeze

Recyclables

- Print Cartridges
- Cell Phones

Electronic Waste

Televisions, computer monitors, whole CPUs, laptop computers, printers & scanners fax machines, telephones, stereos, VCR's

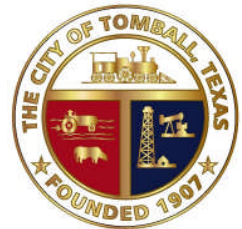
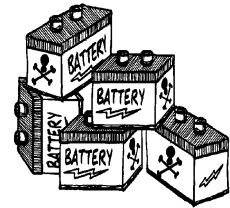
What NOT to bring?

business waste, radioactive waste, ammunition, explosives, compressed gas cylinders, smoke detectors, microwaves, washers, dryers, refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, tractor tires, trash



SAFETY TIPS!

- Bring product in original containers (do not mix products)
- Make sure containers are properly sealed and labeled
- If you don't know what it is mark it "unknown"
- If possible, place materials in cardboard boxes
- Place materials in area away from drivers and passengers



CITY OF TOMBALL
401 Market Street
Tomball, Texas 77375
www.ci.tomball.tx.us



Project funded through a grant provided by Houston-Galveston Area Council and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.



June 14

July 12

August 9

Mark Your Calendar!

FREE!

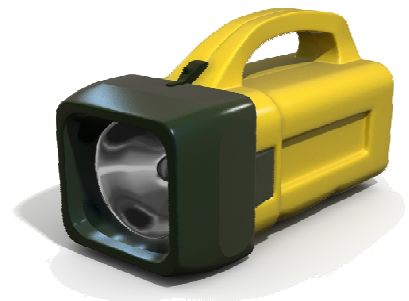
Tomball's Second Saturday at the Depot

6 PM until...

Music, Movies, Food! Bring your lawn chairs, picnic baskets, and the whole family!

Be Prepared

We are pleased to announce that the Tomball Fire Department, in conjunction with the Tomball Lowes Home Improvement Center, is offering free emergency hand lights to be placed in home emergency preparedness kits to residents of the community. **Supplies are limited to the first 200 persons to stop in at the Tomball Fire department Central Fire Station, 1200 Rudel, Tomball, TX 77375.**



Department Phone Numbers
 City Hall
 281-351-5484
 Community Center
 281-255-6221
 Fire Department
 281-351-7101
 Police Department
 281-351-5451
 Public Works/
 Engineering & Planning/Building Official
 281-290-1400

City of Tomball



City of Tomball
 401 Market Street
 Tomball, Texas 77375

CITY OF TOMBALL
 401 MARKET STREET

U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 MAILED FROM
 ZIP CODE 77375
 Permit No. 1

Mayor & City Council

Gretchen Fagan

Mayor

David R. Quinn

Mayor Pro-Tem, Position 1

Roy Lazenby

Councilmember, Position 2

Bill Webb

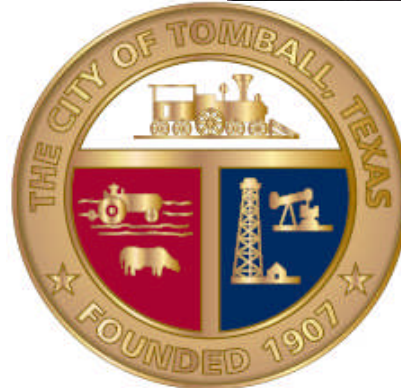
Councilmember, Position 3

Mary Harvey

Councilmember, Position 4

Warren Driver

Councilmember, Position 5



Mission

To promote a healthy and safe environment of increasingly higher quality of life for all citizens, with sensitivity to the financial burden it may impose