

HOMETOWN *Link*

CITY OF TOMBALL
401 MARKET STREET
TOMBALL, TEXAS 77375

Winter 2009
Volume 17, Issue 1

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Why Tomball? I chose to live in Tomball for the same reason many of you did...a way of life. This is such a great place to raise our kids and I want to ensure we continue to be the family community we have all come to love.

Did you know we have created a family event once a month with you and your family in mind? The second Saturday of each month we have great entertainment with concerts, movies and kids' activities. We began the *2nd Saturday at the Depot* series in the summer of 2008 and we plan to grow the festivities monthly.

Have you ever wanted to have a Farmers Market in Tomball? Well, I am looking for people with the "know how" to help me get that done. We know that attracting people to Tomball will only enhance the community we currently have. What other ideas do YOU have? What would YOU like to see?

Another advantage to the *2nd Saturday at the Depot* is that attracting shoppers to Tomball means their tax dollars come into our community for police, fire, streets and parks—basically supporting the city of Tomball. When shopping in areas outside Tomball, we are supporting other cities.

We have so much to offer...Tomball's diverse retail base, including hundreds of specialty shops, boutiques and major retailers throughout the city, provides more than enough stores to satisfy consumers' shopping needs.

Sales tax dollars are the largest contributor to the city's operating budget. If people consistently shop and dine within our city limits, the City of Tomball will continue to prosper and grow.

I would like to know what you think, so I welcome your suggestions and comments, please e-mail me at gagan@ci.tomball.tx.us.

I'm glad you are in Tomball...it's a wonderful life!

Sincerely,



Stay Warm but Safe this Winter

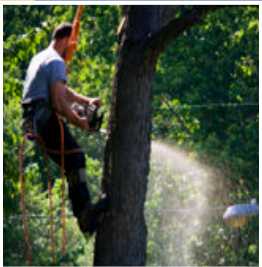
Each year nearly 36,000 fires are started by portable heaters, fireplaces and chimneys. Winter heating is the second leading cause of home fires.

Please remember that space heaters must be kept at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn; including furniture, blankets, curtains and paper products. To be safe, choose space heaters that turn off automatically if they tip over or get too hot. When using a space heater, please remember that they should never be used to dry clothes and that they should be turned off when you go to bed.



Fireplaces should be inspected by a qualified service person and your chimney or wood stove cleaned each year. Always use a metal or glass fireplace screen to keep sparks from hitting nearby carpets or furniture. Keep air inlets on wood stoves open. Keep kindling, paper and décor away from fireplaces and wood stoves. Never use gas or lighter fluid to start a fireplace or wood stove. Burn only seasoned hardwood. Burning soft, moist wood causes creosote build-up and can cause a chimney fire. Don't burn cardboard boxes, newspaper, or trash. They burn too hot and can cause a chimney fire. Be sure vent pipes extend at least 3 feet above the roof. Install stovepipe thermometers to check flue temperatures. Follow manufacturer's instructions for installing and maintaining fireplaces and wood stoves.

Spruce up Your Home



This time of year is the perfect time to get a jump start on your Spring cleaning. As we unwind from the holidays, we find numerous opportunities to get a fresh start.

To dispose of your Christmas tree you can place it with your normal trash beginning January 2. Please remember to remove all decorations and stands. Trees should not be placed near water meters, gas meters, or fire hydrants and should not block any drainage systems.

This time of year is also a good time to start some of those tree trimming projects. For proper pruning times and methods you can visit the Texas A&M Horticulture website at aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/. If you do choose to trim the trees in your yard, please dispose of the branches and debris properly. Limbs should not be longer than 4 feet in length, and should not be stacked more than 4 feet high or 4 feet wide. Please remember that branches larger than 4 inches in diameter will not be collected.

For information on other disposal requirements, please visit the City of Tomball's Public Works webpage at www.ci.tomball.tx.us/public_works or call 281-290-1400.

Don't forget about Clean Up Tomball Week, March 9—14. For more information please contact the Public Works Department at 281-290-1400.

Service Flags to Support our Troops

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.





The Digital TV Transition

On February 17, 2009 all full-power broadcast television stations in the United States will stop broadcasting on analog airwaves and begin broadcasting only in digital. Digital broadcasting will allow stations to offer improved picture and sound quality and additional channels.

For more information on how the transition will effect you, please visit www.dtv.gov or call 1-888-CALL-FCC.

City Taxes Due

Don't forget that the City of Tomball has turned its property tax collections over to Harris County. Your city taxes will be included in your Harris County Tax bill. Complete payment of your taxes is due by January 31, 2009.

If you have any questions on your tax bill, please call 713-368-2000, or visit the Tax Office website at www.tax.co.harris.tx.us.

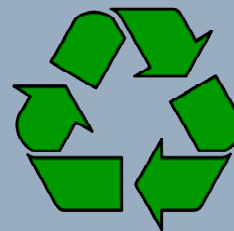
Road Projects

On November 24, 2008 Phase I of Brown Road was opened between SH 249 and Quinn Rd. The extension of Mechanic Street should be completed in January, 2009 and the construction Michel Road from SH 249 to School Street should be completed May, 2009.



Start Your Year Off Green

In an effort to do its part for the environment the City of Tomball is taking steps toward limiting its waste sent to the landfill. With funding from the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) the City has purchased aluminum water bottles and canvas grocery bags for its citizens. If you would like to do your part for the environment, these items will be available free of charge at city hall, located at 401 Market Street. We will also be giving them away at our 2nd Saturday at the Depot events.



Another way to help the environment is to properly dispose of your household hazardous waste. Throughout the Houston area there are locations to dispose of your household cleaning chemicals, motor oil, paint, tires and electronic waste. If you would like more information on HHW recycling please visit the H-GAC website at www.h-gac.com/community/waste/management or call Shawn Cox at 281-290-1001.

New Faces

Tiffani McMinn has joined the Tomball Economic Development Corporation as its Economic Development Coordinator.



McMinn

Joining the Public Works Department as a Utilities Service Person is Colby Pali.



Pali



Gist

New to the Police Department are Officers Gary Hammond, Jennifer Dodgen and Kristina Tikal; Public Service Officer Raymond Barrientez; and Dispatcher Sharla Gist.



Hammond, Dodgen, Tikal and Chief Hauck

January 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				New Years Day City Offices Closed	2	3
4	5 City Council	6	7	8	9 Chamber 1st Friday Luncheon	10 2nd Saturday at the Depot
11	12 Planning and Zoning Meeting	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 City Council	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 City Council	3	4	5	6 Chamber 1st Friday Luncheon	7
8	9 Planning and Zoning Meeting	10	11	12 Livable Centers Meeting	13	14 2nd Saturday at the Depot
15	16 City Council	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 City Council	3	4	5	6 Chamber 1st Friday Luncheon	7
8 Day Light Saving Begins 	9 Planning and Zoning Meeting	10	11 Clean Up Tomball Week: March 9th — 14th	12	13	14 2nd Saturday at the Depot
15	16 City Council	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

THE CITY OF TOMBALL PRESENTS 2ND SATURDAY AT THE DEPOT

LOCATED AT THE HISTORIC TOMBALL DEPOT PLAZA—201 SOUTH ELM

JANUARY 10~FEBRUARY 14~MARCH 14, 2009

BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY, YOUR LAWN CHAIRS AND A PICNIC DINNER.
WE WILL HAVE KID'S FUN, MOVIES, MUSIC, ARTS AND CONCESSIONS!

January 10

Explore the world of the Great North in [ARCTIC TALE!](#)

Music ~ TBA



February 14

Bring a date and enjoy a romantic Valentine's Day with

[SLEEPLESS IN SEATTLE.](#)

Music ~ TBA



March 14

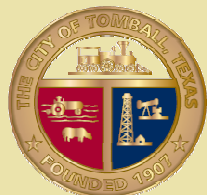
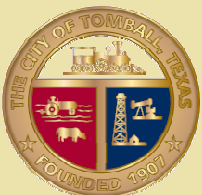
"Hang Six" this Spring Break with [SURF'S UP](#)

Music ~ TBA



Remember to log on the City's website for information on future
2nd Saturday at The Depot Events.

If you have a question or would like to participate in a future
event, please visit the City's website at www.ci.tomball.tx.us or
call 281-290-1001.



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 & Plan-
 ning/Building Official
 281-290-1400

City of Tomball



The City of Tomball Presents
 2nd Saturday at the Depot
 located at the historic Tomball depot
 plaza—201 South elm

CITY OF TOMBALL
 401 MARKET STREET

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

Mayor & City Council

Gretchen Fagan

Mayor

Mary Harvey

Mayor Pro-Tem, Position 4

David R. Quinn

Councilmember, Position 1

Roy Lazenby

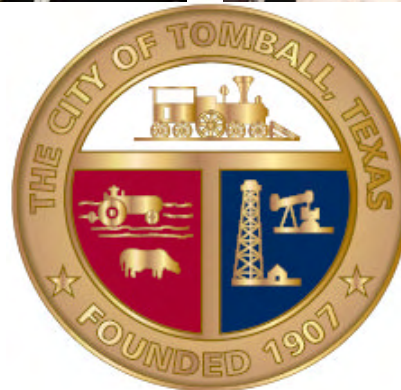
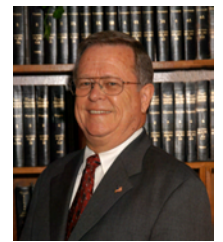
Councilmember, Position 2

Bill Webb

Councilmember, Position 3

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