

City of Sweeny

May 2015 Newsletter

Scheduled Recurring Official Meetings for City Business:

- *Sweeny Economic Development Corporation - 2nd Monday of each month - May 11, 2015*
- *City Council - 3rd Tuesday of each month - May 19, 2015*

Recycle dates for May are the 7th and 21st.

"Pride Day" this year is May 2nd, but some activities will occur May 1st. Some of the scheduled activities for May 1st include the BBQ Cook-off, carnival and a 5K "Glow Run/Walk" sponsored by the Sweeny Chamber of Commerce, and fireworks at dark. The annual "Pride Day" parade will be on the 2nd, as well as the "Men who bake" contest and auction, Car Show, craft booths, and many more events throughout the day. Two thumbs up to "Sweeny Beautification" who not only organizes the event, but also sponsors Pride Day.

Local elections will officially be conducted May 9th, but early voting started April 27th and will end May 5th. Early voting can be completed at any voting site in the County, to include the site located in Sweeny. On May 9th, the last day to vote, polling will be conducted at the Community Center on W. Ashley Wilson Road. If you come out for "Pride Day" think about casting your ballot on May 2nd, and take your kids with you. What better "Life Lesson" on citizenship can you impart? Show your children that being a good citizen also means involvement in the election process.

Youth baseball, softball, soccer, etc. is in full swing so we are going to see a lot more activity on the roadways to include pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles. Many of the vehicles will be parked on the side of the road, limiting line of sight. Vehicles should be parked in such a way as the part of the vehicle closest to the roadway is parked at least 6" from the road, and no closer than 15' to the intersection. Especially important is that pedestrians have the right of way at designated crosswalks. Even if not at an official crossing point, always be on the lookout for pedestrians and cyclists, especially our youth.

Volunteer opportunities:

- *Sweeny Fire and Rescue*
- *Sweeny Zoning Commission*
- *Sweeny Zoning Board of Adjustments*

The majority of the City is in the preferred Flood Zone "X", which is the lowest category for potential flooding. Other areas are more likely to flood, and these are designated "AO" and "AE". If you are unsure which zone you are in, you can review the "Flood Map", for Sweeny, at City Hall, 102 W. Ashley Wilson Road. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has indicated an update map is in the works, but no indication of when it will be published. The current map is dated June 1988.

Pressure testing on fire hydrants was conducted during the week of April 13, without the usual advance notice of 24-business hours. Unfortunately some citizens did not receive the City-wide call advising everyone of this activity, and were surprised to find murky water. We apologize for this situation and will work to try and prevent future occurrence. The testing itself is a requirement to insure sufficient pressure to allow Sweeny Fire and Rescue to effectively fight fires.

On the subject of hydrants, ours were installed many years ago without an isolation valve. What this means is that all testing is done under full pressurization, and full pressurization allows all of the built up iron and other deposits to be stirred and put into the system at once. The issue of iron and magnesium in our water has been a "Council Issue" several times over the past few months, with consideration of several options being reviewed by our City Engineer. Improving our water system and insuring adequate supply in the future are priorities, as is replacing old hydrants and installing isolation valves; and these needs will be brought to Council for review.

Sweeny ISD housing survey: Sweeny ISD has contracted to conduct a survey regarding housing needs within the ISD. If you are interested in participating in the survey, the web site is: www.research.net/r/SweenyHousingSurvey. The survey is designed for existing homeowners, renters and prospective newcomers to our community. The results will be shared with potential developers to create new housing in our Community.

Let us know if you have a topic you would like covered in this media, and we will do our best to get you the requested information.

*Rodney Weems, Mayor
City of Sweeny Texas*

*Cindy King, City Manager
City of Sweeny Texas*