

City of Sweeny February 2014 Newsletter

February is African American National History Month and we encourage you to learn about the many contributions made by African Americans. One such individual was George Washington Carver—born a slave and died as a “respected and world-renowned agricultural chemist.” He is credited with the thorough study of the peanut, developing some 100+ products (such as dyes, plastics and gasoline) as a direct result of his investigations. During the era of segregation many schools were named to honor this great American. The “George Washington Carver” High School of Sweeny was one such school, and its graduates continue to make contributions to our community and beyond.

As a reminder, the City now has the capability to enroll citizens into its direct bank draft program which allows for direct payment of your utility account. You will receive notice of the billing amount, but the monies will be transferred by your banking institution to the City.

*We know that many of you have received higher bills, for the past 2 months, relating to natural gas consumption. By way of comparison we have looked back to usage levels from 2009 forward. Using the most recent year as a base here is what the review revealed: 2013 over 2012--+ **210%**, 2013 over 2011--+ **149%**, 2013 over 2010--+**146%** and 2013 over 2009--+ **107%**. Unfortunately with the cold weather there has been a significant increase in natural gas consumption over the previous few years, most recently more than double over last year. Every month our gas rates from our supplier Kinder Morgan fluctuate, however; the way we calculate the cities retention has not been increased since October 1, 2009.*

*Also, related to usage for this month is the number of days in the current billing cycle. This month covered **35** days, whereas your previous bill covered fewer days (**28**).*

Lost pets: The City is now posting on its web site pictures of animals picked up and being held in the “Pound”. If you have lost a pet be sure to check our web site or the Sweeny ACO Facebook page.

We continue to work with the railroad to try and get a firm date on when the rails at the Martin Luther King crossing will be repaired. Also, we continue to work the issue of drainage. The first concern is the outflows from the City, and we are working with the Drainage District, and the County. We have asked the County for support in asking TxDOT to review the culverts at C.R. 332 (E. Ashley Wilson) and F.M. 1459, and at F.M. 524 as you come into town.

If you have a topic you would like covered in this media, please advise, and we will do our best to provide you with the requested information.

*Rodney Weems, Mayor
City of Sweeny Texas*

*Cindy King, City Manager
City of Sweeny Texas*