

## City of Sweeny March 2014 Newsletter

*"Spring begins with the Vernal Equinox on March 20, 2014 at 12:57 P.M., Eastern Standard Time. The word equinox is derived from the Latin words meaning 'equal night.' Days and nights are approximately equal everywhere and the sun rises and sets due east and west." For our hemisphere that means the earth is warming and plants of all kinds will be putting out their blooms. It's also time for spring cleaning—which means a lot of things will be placed curbside for trash service. So this is a good time to review the rules regarding our contract with Waste Connections.*

- *Mondays*
  - *Household Trash—Blue Garbage Container—wheels facing backwards from the road.*
  - *Heavy Trash*
    - *Oversized household items*
    - *Limbs, etc. cut to 4' lengths*
    - *"No" Construction Materials*
      - *We do hear "they've picked it up in the past." The key point to remember is that the City does not pay Waste Connections to pick it up. While a driver may pick the material up at time, it's something they decided to do on their own out of the goodness of their heart. Or, they may have space left on the truck and time on their route, but they don't have to pick it up.*
- *Every other Thursday (March 6 and 20 this month)—recycle (Plastics, paper, aluminum, and other metal items, etc.) -- Green Garbage Container - wheels facing backwards from the road.*
- *Saturdays*
  - *Non-regular trash such as bags of leaves and small branches—items that can be collected by hand*

*Permit and Contractor Registration: If you are hiring someone to complete work on your behalf it is the contractor's responsibility to pull a permit and provide you proof of the permit before they start work. For a*

*contractor to pull a permit, they need to be registered with the City which means they have the appropriate liability coverage to protect you against damages to your property. As part of this process, citizens should never pay for work before it is completed, which includes the permitting process. We include this information as we have received some complaints regarding payment for work that was not completed. Don't let this happen to you! Make sure the contractor has a permit, and don't pay until the work is completed per the agreement of services.*

*With Pride Day (May 3<sup>rd</sup>) just around the corner we encourage all residents and business owners to start their preparations early. Just remember some things you place curbside may not qualify for pickup – see above.*

*At last month's Council meeting, a 5-year moratorium, retroactive to October 1, 2013, on "Residential" building permits and tap fees relating to water, gas and sewer for new construction and renovation increasing the property value by 51% was approved. Electrical, plumbing, roofing, AC/Heating, etc permits are still required. The fees being waived for new construction will almost all be under \$1,000.00. First year property tax receipt will offset this incentive.*

*The taps fees for water, sewer and gas range from \$150.00 - \$200.00 each, or \$550.00 total if built on a lot without existing services. If built on a lot with existing services, then there are no savings to the owner except for the permit itself. Building permits are currently based on \$.15 (15 cents) a square foot. A permit for a 1500' home would be \$225.00. With the growth that is projected to come to our area we are hopeful we can get some new housing, and hope this moratorium will encourage new homes in our City. Additional homes will increase the tax base, creating new revenue which will allow the City to start addressing some of its more pressing issues such as streets and drainage.*

*If you have a topic you would like covered in this newsletter, please let us know, 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*