

**City Page**  
**October 1, 2009**

**Sales Tax Revenue Continues to Increase, Proof of Strong Local Economy**

Sales Tax Revenue to the City of Joshua has increased over 20% over the last 2 years, and sales tax revenue continues to increase month to month despite decreasing revenues from sales tax in many surrounding communities. So what? What does this mean to you, the tax paying citizens of Joshua? This means that more revenue is coming in from sources other than property tax, and is part of the reason the City of Joshua has been able to decrease the property tax rate by over 3 cents over the last 2 years. It also means that the local economy has remained strong despite the economic decline our country, state and region have experienced.

Take a look at the numbers and see for yourself:

2008/2009 Fiscal Year Sales Tax Revenue (thru August)	\$1,137,588
2007/2008 Fiscal Year Sales Tax Revenue	\$1,035,292
2006/2007 Fiscal Year Sales Tax Revenue	\$ 945,730

The City has collected \$191,858 more from sales tax over the last 2 years which is an increase of 20.28%. There is still one more month to go this fiscal year, and we expect to collect over \$80,000 in sales tax revenue for the month of September. This will bring total sales tax revenue to just over \$1.2 million in the current fiscal year, which will mean an increase in sales tax revenue of almost 30% over the last 2 fiscal years. In addition, the State Comptroller shows Joshua sales tax revenues have increased almost 21% from last calendar year to this calendar year.

<http://www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/allocsum/citycnty.html>

The following shows the City of Joshua Property Tax Rate over the last 2 years.

2009 Property Tax Rate	\$0.634331 per \$100 valuation
2008 Property Tax Rate	\$0.656219 per \$100 valuation
2007 Property Tax Rate	\$0.669 per \$100 valuation

Total Decrease in Property Tax Rate      \$0.035 per \$100 valuation.

So, be sure to buy in Joshua as much as possible to insure this trend continues.

**City Wide Fall Clean Up**

Fall clean up is scheduled for October 9 – 11, 2009. Drop off times are from 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Enter from 6<sup>th</sup> Street and leave from 10<sup>th</sup> Street. Proof of residency will be required. A \$5.00/ea charge for batteries or tires. No chemicals, paint, auto parts or any appliance with a compressor.

## **Mosquito Control**

With all the recent rains, mosquitoes have become a real problem. The City will begin treating areas in the city that have standing water along roadways. We have provided some helpful information for homeowners as well.

### **What you can do to control mosquitoes around the home**

#### **1. Remove their habitat (where they live and breed)**

Eliminate standing water in rain gutters, old tires, buckets, plastic covers, toys, or any other container where mosquitoes can breed.

Empty and change the water in bird baths, fountains, wading pools, rain barrels, and potted plant trays at least once a week to destroy potential mosquito habitats.

Drain or fill temporary pools of water with dirt.

Keep swimming pool water treated and circulating.

#### **2. Prevent your exposure to mosquitoes**

Use EPA-registered mosquito repellents when necessary and follow label directions and precautions closely.

Use head nets, long sleeves and long pants if you venture into areas with high mosquito populations, such as salt marshes.

If there is a mosquito-borne disease warning in effect, stay inside during the evening when mosquitoes are active.

Make sure window and door screens are "bug tight."

Replace your outdoor lights with yellow "bug" lights which tend to attract less mosquitoes than ordinary lights. The yellow lights are NOT repellents, however.

For more information on controlling mosquitoes around your home, contact ...

#### **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**

Tel: 970-221-6400

Fax: 970-221-6476

E-mail: [dvbid@cdc.gov](mailto:dvbid@cdc.gov)

Web site: <http://www.cdc.gov>

## **Planning and Zoning Vacancy**

The City Planning and Zoning Commission has a position available for a resident that would like to serve. Meetings are held on the first Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Persons interested may contact Mary Beth Thomas at 817-558-7447 or by email at [citysecretary@cityofjoshuatx.us](mailto:citysecretary@cityofjoshuatx.us)

## **Fire Prevention Week October 4 – 10**

**In recognition of Fire Prevention Week, the City of Joshua Fire Department offers the following facts, statistics on home fires with a few prevention tips.**

### **Fire Facts**

- In 2008, U.S. fire departments responded to 386,500 home fires. These fires killed 2,755 civilians. Eighty-three percent of all fire deaths resulted from home fires.
- Someone was injured in a home fire every 40 minutes and roughly eight people died in home fires every day during 2008.
- Almost two-thirds of reported home fire deaths in 2003-2006 resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.
- About 1/3 of home fires and deaths happened in the months of December, January and February.
- Cooking continues to be the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries.
- Smoking materials caused one of every four home fire deaths.
- The kitchen is the leading area of origin for home fires. However, bedrooms and living/family rooms are the leading areas of origin for home fire deaths.

### **Cooking**

- Cooking is the leading cause of home fires, accounting for 40% of reported home fires and 36% of related injuries.
- Unattended cooking is the leading cause of cooking fires.
- U.S. fire departments responded to 146,400 home structure fires involving cooking equipment in 2005. These fires caused 480 civilian fire deaths, 4,690 civilian fire injuries and \$876 million in direct property damage.
- Twelve percent of the fires occurred when something that could catch fire was too close to the equipment.

### **Smoking**

- Smoking materials (i.e., cigarettes, cigars, pipes, etc.) are the leading cause of fire deaths (roughly one in four) in the United States.
- There were 142,900 smoking-material fires in the United States in 2006, causing 780 civilian deaths and 1,600 civilian injuries.

- The most common items first ignited in home smoking-material fire deaths were upholstered furniture and mattresses or bedding.
- One out of four victims of fatal smoking-related fires is not the smoker whose cigarette started the fire.

### **Heating**

- In 2006, heating equipment was involved in an estimated 64,100 reported home structure fires, 540 civilian deaths, 1,400 civilian injuries, and \$943 million in direct property damage.
- In 2006 heating equipment fires accounted for 16% of all reported home fires (second behind cooking) and 21% of home fire deaths.
- More than half of all heating related fire deaths in 2003-2006 resulted from fires in December, January, and February.
- Space heaters result in far more fires and losses than central heating devices and have higher risks relative to usage.
- Fixed or portable space heaters were involved in 4% of the home fires and 17% of the home fire deaths.
- Most of the space heater fires were caused by the space heater being too close to things that could burn.

### **Electrical**

- Electrical distribution or lighting equipment was involved in 25,100 reported home structure fires in 2006. These fires caused 370 deaths.
- Lamps, light fixtures and light bulbs accounted for 5,500 home structure fires per year, during 2003-2006.
- Wiring switches or outlets caused more than 10,000 home fire structures per year. Cord or plugs accounted for 2,600. Cords and plugs accounted for 1% of the home fires and 5% of home fire deaths.

### **Smoke Alarms**

- Smoke alarms that are properly installed and maintained play a vital role in reducing fire deaths and injuries. Having a working smoke alarm cuts the chances of dying in a reported fire in half.
- A 2008 U.S. telephone survey found that 96% of U.S. households had at least one smoke alarm, yet in 2003-2006, no smoke alarms were present or none operated in two out of the five (41%) of the reported home fires.
- Almost two-thirds of reported home fire deaths in 2003-2006 resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.
- No smoke alarms were present in 40% of the home fire deaths.
- In more than half of the reported home fires in which the smoke alarms were present but did not operate, batteries were missing or disconnected. Nuisance alarms were the leading reason for disconnected smoke alarms.
- Test your smoke alarms once each month to be sure they are working

## Home Escape Planning

- According to an NFPA survey, only one in four Americans have actually developed and practiced a [home fire escape plan](#) (PDF, 632 KB) to ensure they could escape quickly and safely.
- While 66% of Americans have an escape plan in case of a fire, only 35% of those have practiced it.
- One-third of American households who made an estimate thought they would have at least 6 minutes before a fire in their home would become life-threatening. The time available is often less. And only 8% said their first thought on hearing a smoke alarm would be to get out!
- Eighteen to 24-year-olds are the least likely to have even developed an escape plan.



## Upcoming Meetings and Events

October 5, 2009	Planning and Zoning Meeting	6:30 p.m.
October 12, 2009	Joshua 4A Economic Development Meeting	6:30 p.m.
October 13, 2009	Joshua 4B Economic Development Meeting	7:00 p.m.
October 15, 2009	Regular City Council Meeting	6:30 p.m.
October 17, 2009	Fall Festival	