

City Page April 15, 2010

Early Voting for City Council Election Begins April 26th

The City Council has called an election for Saturday May 8th to elect the Mayor and City Council Places 1, 3, and 5. Early voting for this election will be held April 26th – May 4th at City Hall. Early voting polls will be open Monday – Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. However, extended voting hours will be offered Monday April 26th and Wednesday April 28th when polls will be open from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm. City Council Place 5 is the only contested race in the upcoming Council Election. Visit the city web site a www.cityofjoshuatx.us for more information on the upcoming election.

Groundbreaking for City Park Rescheduled for April 30, 2010

With the bidding process complete, the Type B Economic Development and Parks Board and the City Council are both expected to act on the final construction contract during their April meetings. Construction is expected to begin with a groundbreaking ceremony to be held April 30, 2010 at 3:30 pm at the park site, 831 North Main Street. The park should be complete by December 2010 weather permitting.

Joshua Police Department to Hold Open House

The Joshua Police Department will be hosting an Open House on May 13, 2010 from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. in recognition of National Police Week. A tour of the department will be conducted and refreshments will be served.

Rabies : What You Need to Know.

There have been 2 rabid skunks found in the City of Burleson. Since rabies has been found in the area, Joshua Animal Control wants to make sure Joshua residents are keeping their animals current with the rabies vaccination and taking measure to prevent the transmission of rabies to their pets and children. Rabies in humans is 100% preventable. Children are often at greatest risk from rabies. The most important global source of rabies in humans is from uncontrolled rabies in dogs. This major source of rabies in humans can be eliminated through ensuring adequate animal vaccination and control, educating those at risk, and enhancing access of those bitten to appropriate medical care.

How is Rabies Transmitted?

Rabies is most often transmitted through the bite of a rabid animal. All species of mammals are susceptible to rabies virus infection, but only a few species are important as reservoirs for the disease. In the United States, distinct strains of rabies virus have been identified in raccoons, skunks, foxes, and coyotes. Several species of insectivorous bats are also reservoirs for strains of the rabies virus.

What is the Risk for My Pet?

Any animal bitten or scratched by either a wild, carnivorous mammal or a bat that is not available for testing should be regarded as having been exposed to rabies. Unvaccinated dogs, cats, and ferrets exposed to a rabid animal should be euthanized immediately. If the owner is unwilling to have this done, the animal should be placed in strict isolation for 6 months and vaccinated 1 month before being released. Animals with expired vaccinations need to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Dogs and cats that are currently vaccinated are kept under observation for 45 days.

Joshua City Ordinance requires that all dogs and cats within the City Limits be vaccinated annually. Low cost rabies vaccinations will be available from Joshua High School FFA during a weekend animal clinic on May 15, 2010. For more information, please visit the city website at www.cityofjoshuatx.us or call the Shelter at 817-774-9450

City Outdoor Burning Ordinance

Outdoor burning within the City limits requires a permit. The request for a permit should be made at least 5 days in advance, and should include a simple drawing of the area around the burn site. Ordinance # 475-2009 provides for the control of outdoor burning within the city limits of Joshua including a requirement for an on-site visit from the Fire Marshal to approve the site based on requirements in the ordinance. The permit fee for most residential burns is \$25.00.

Brush, leaves, non treated lumber and grass clippings are among the things that are allowed to be burned with a permit. Prohibited items include tires, rubber and petroleum products. Burns will not be allowed when a burn ban is in effect, or on red flag days when high winds are present. For more information, please visit the city website at www.cityofjoshuatx.us or contact the Fire Department at 817-558-4141.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) under the provisions of the Texas Clean Air Act (Texas Health and Safety Code § 382.002 et seq.) grants cities certain powers to enact and enforce ordinances regulating air contaminants and air pollution. The Ordinance was adopted in conformance with these requirements, and is intended to promote fire prevention within the City.

High Grass and Weeds Season in Full Effect

Remember, the City of Joshua does have an ordinance regulating high grass and weeds. Joshua City Ordinances say that property owners must maintain their lots, and that grass and weeds that average over 12 inches high are a violation. To stay within code, property owners should keep lots mowed to less than 12 inches. If your grass is taller than 12 inches, you may receive a certified notice to mow your yard and will have 10 days to complete the task. If the lot is not mowed after 10 days, the City can hire a contractor to complete the job and charge the property owners for mowing costs and labor. If the City mows the property and the property owner fails to pay the bill, the City can place a lien against the property. Liens stay with the property and are assessed interest penalties until they are paid.

High grass and weeds are a public nuisance that can create health, safety and welfare issues. Not only do poorly maintained lots contribute to an unsightly community, they also block visibility, harbor rodents and snakes, contribute to the growth of mosquitoes and chiggers, and create a fire hazard especially during the hot, dry Texas summer. So, please help keep your community safe and attractive by maintaining your yard.

Helping Your Community is as Simple as Returning Your Census Form

Why is it important to complete and return your Census form? This is the only way to know how many people are in our community so we can properly plan for the necessary resources. So, send in those forms ASAP. Remember a 2010 Census representative is available to assist Monday – Friday from 9:00 am until 12:00 noon in City Hall. Census staff will be on hand until April 19, 2010. If you have any questions on filling out the 2010 Census, please come by and visit with the representative. Get those forms in and be counted!

Mulch Available to Residents at No Cost

Residents are reminded that mulch is available to those who would like it from the city at no cost. Fresh mulch is available currently for pick up at the city street department service center. For more information please call 817-558-7447 or visit the website at www.cityofjoshuatx.us

Upcoming Meetings and Events.

City Council Meeting April 15, 2010 at 6:30 pm

Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament April 19, 2010 at Mountain Valley Country Club

City Park Groundbreaking Ceremony April 30, 2010 3:30 pm

Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting May 3, 2010 6:30 pm