

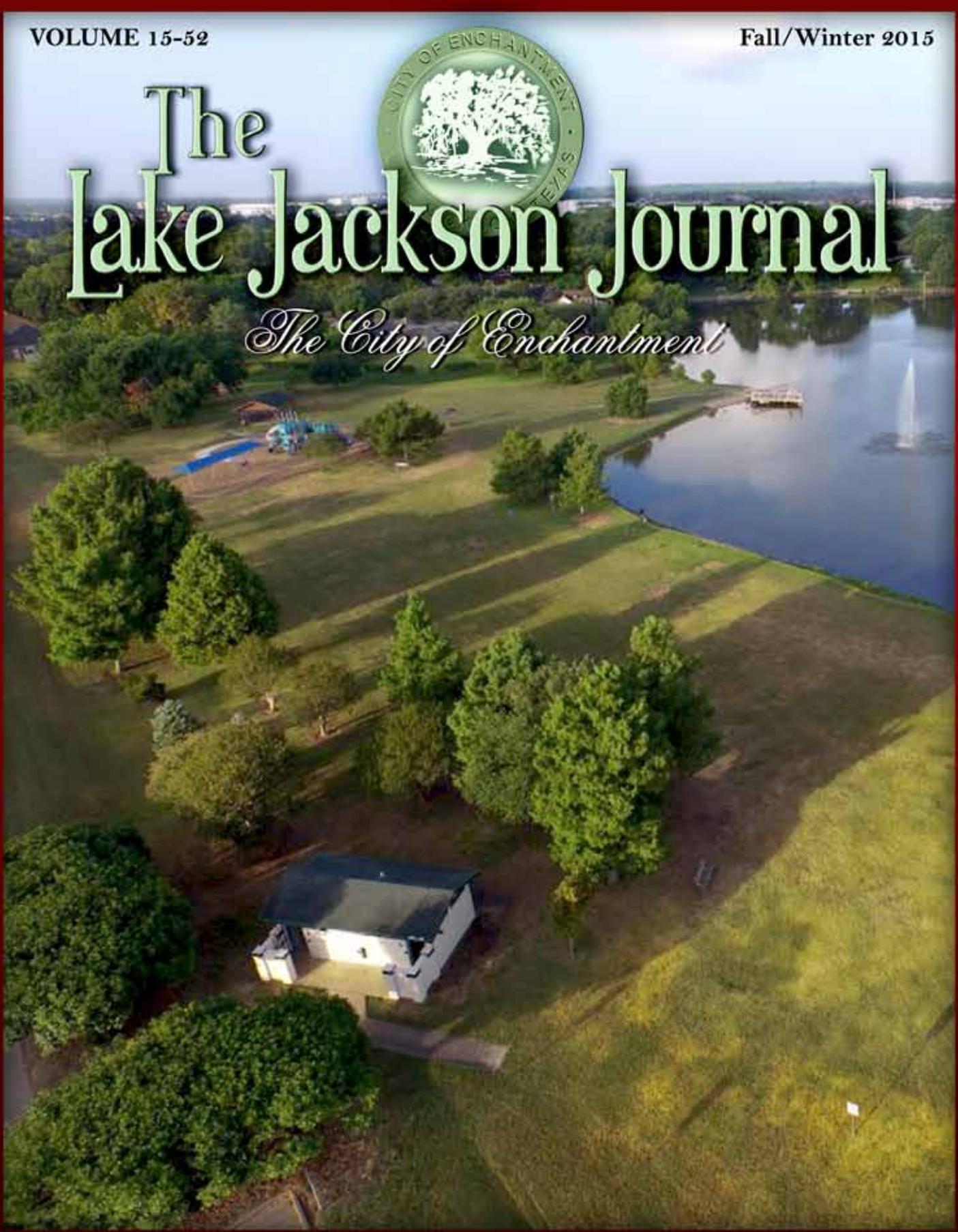
VOLUME 15-52

Fall/Winter 2015



The Lake Jackson Journal

The City of Enchantment



A COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

published by the City of Lake Jackson



Greetings from the Mayor

Hello Lake Jackson,

We were blessed to experience a brief taste of autumn and can only hope the feeling returns soon.

It is a busy time of the year for Lake Jackson as we approach the end of the year. There will be activities and events for the entire family. Saturday, November 14 will be the Fall Clean-Up & Recycle Day from 7:30 a.m. -11:00 a.m. at City Hall. The 27th Festival of Lights will be held on November 21st. Please look at page 13 for a detailed schedule of events highlighted by the Festival of Lights parade downtown at 7:00 p.m. There are several activities planned by the Parks and Recreation Department and the Civic Center. Check out these opportunities.

Of special interest is contact information from CenterPoint Energy for reporting and getting updates of electricity problems throughout the city. A recap of City Council highlights can be found on page 6. This covers meetings held between March and August. Some of our parks have new hours of operation and information is available throughout this newsletter. One reminder; there will be no trash pick-up on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day or New Year's Day.

As no surprise, traffic is increasing throughout the city. Along with that, new homes and businesses are beginning to appear as well. Several new dining options have opened or are soon to open. The proposed Courtyard by Marriott project is awaiting final approval and could get underway in early 2016. A developer plans to build a prototype LaQuinta Inn & Suites on Lake Road soon as well.

I ask you to remember our First Responders. All these folks put themselves forward to protect us daily. They are vital to all of us.

Hope your holiday season is safe and enjoyable. It's a time of family fun and togetherness. Becky and I send Season's Greetings to each of you.

Best Wishes,

Joe

Lake Jackson Vision Statement

**It is the Vision of the City of Lake Jackson to create
an ideal community to live, work and play for all.**



Inside this Issue



Aerial view of Lloyd Morrison Park at Shy Pond.

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City Directory

Phone Numbers

Emergency - Only!	911
(police, fire and ambulance)	
Police (Non-Emergency)	415-2700
Fire Marshal	415-2726
Fire Chief	415-2719
EMS Chief	415-2714
City Hall.	415-2400
Utility Billing	415-2434
Public Works	415-2430
Inspections	415-2432
Engineering	415-2413
City Manager/Administration.	415-2500
Civic Center.	415-2600
Recreation Center.	297-4533
Humane Center	415-2700
Regional Animal Shelter	285-2340
Municipal Court	297-1031
Library	415-2590

City Council E-Mail

Mayor

Joe Rinehart jrinehart@lakejacksontx.gov

Councilmembers

Heather Melass hmelass@lakejacksontx.gov

Will Brooks wbrooks@lakejacksontx.gov

Gerald Roznovsky groznovsky@lakejacksontx.gov

R. L. "Buster" Buell, III rbuell@lakejacksontx.gov

Jon "J.B." Baker jrbaker@lakejacksontx.gov

Department Directors

City Manager	William P. Yenne wyenne@lakejacksontx.gov
Asst. City Manager	Modesto Mundo mmundo@lakejacksontx.gov
City Engineer	Sal Aguirre saguirre@lakejacksontx.gov
City Secretary	Alice Rodgers arodgers@lakejacksontx.gov
Finance Director	Pam Eaves peaves@lakejacksontx.gov
Fire Marshal	Randy Crim rcrim@lakejacksontx.gov
Fire Chief	Mike Harper firechief@lakejacksontx.gov
EMS Chief	Fred Ortiz fred.ortiz@ljems.org
Parks & Rec. Director	Jeremy Bubnick jbubnick@lakejacksontx.gov
Police Chief	Rick Park chief@lakejacksonpd.net
Public Works Director	David Van Riper dvanriper@lakejacksontx.gov
Personnel Director	Carmen Williams cwilliams@lakejacksontx.gov

Visit our Website at www.lakejackson-tx.gov



Like us on Facebook - www.facebook.com/lakejackson
Follow us on Twitter - www.twitter.com/lakejacksontx

Boards & Commissions Meeting Schedule



CITY COUNCIL

6:30 p.m. • 1st & 3rd Monday

YOUTH ADVISORY COMMISSION

(meets at police station)

6 p.m. • 2nd Monday

SENIOR CITIZEN COMMISSION

(meets at civic center)

6:00 p.m. • 4th Monday

PLANNING COMMISSION

6:30 p.m. • 1st Tuesday

TRAFFIC COMMISSION

6:30 p.m. • 2nd Tuesday

KEEP LAKE JACKSON BEAUTIFUL

6 p.m. • 3rd Tuesday

LIBRARY BOARD

(meets at library)

5:15 p.m. • Quarterly - 3rd Tuesday

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD

(meets at rec. center)

6:30 p.m. • 3rd Tuesday

LJ DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Noon • 2nd Thursday

As Called:

- ◇ BOARD OF HEALTH
- ◇ HIKE & BIKE COMMITTEE
- ◇ MUSEUM BOARD
- ◇ ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS
- ◇ CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION (Odd Years)
- ◇ DANGEROUS STRUCTURE DETERMINATION BOARD

All meetings, unless otherwise noted, are held at Lake Jackson City Hall, 25 Oak Drive.

You are cordially invited to attend.

Check the City Calendar on our website at www.lakejackson-tx.gov for all City Council and Board and Commission agendas. Agendas are typically posted on Friday afternoon or at least 72 hours prior to the meeting.

An advertisement for The Wilderness Golf Course. The top part features a scenic view of a golf course with a green, sand traps, and a lake. The text "Experience THE WILDERNESS LAKE JACKSON" is written in a stylized font. Below the image, it says "Award Winning Championship Golf". At the bottom, there are three gift cards: "THE WILDERNESS LAKE JACKSON, TEXAS PLAYER'S PASS", "WGA WILDERNESS GOLF COURSE MEMBERSHIP CARD", and "THE WILDERNESS LAKE JACKSON, TEXAS".

Stretch your golfing \$\$\$ with a Player's Pass.
Join the WGA for membership savings.

The gift of golf is always a good idea.
Shop for The Wilderness gift cards in the
pro shop or online.

Online tee times available.

THE WILDERNESS
LAKE JACKSON, TEXAS

www.thewildernessgc.com
979.297.GOLF (4653)

501 West Hwy 332 Lake Jackson, Texas 77566



Established in 2009 by David and Meredith King, True to Life Ministries' (TTLM) free programs and services are carefully designed to equip people with what they need to achieve their life's greatest potential, and guide them as they identify and remove major barriers holding them back.

What started with no office or furniture and little money, has grown in six years to help thousands in the community. Today, TTLM is housed in downtown Lake Jackson in a beautiful facility funded through an anonymous gift. Their dedicated team orchestrates the ever-growing work of TTLM, and an incredible army of 1000+ volunteers help them accomplish their mission.

Their approach isn't about crisis intervention. It's about long-term, life change. Their work is carried out through 4 Focus Areas:

■ Employment & Education Services include a series of classes and one-on-one assistance to help people gain employment, learn practical life skills, and access education resources to become financially independent.

■ Mentoring & Case Management offers case management resources and one-on-one mentoring relationships to help adults who are serious about life change keep moving forward.

■ Student Services provide unique opportunities for at-risk students to grow personally and professionally, including Club Belay at Brazosport High School.

■ Social Enterprise includes TTLM's two resale stores, Refresh and The Box. The stores serve as living classrooms for TTLM's job training program which employs young adults as they attend TTLM's classes, work with a mentor, and gain hands-on employment experience.

For more information about TTLM,

visit WWW.TTLM.ORG

or call **979.529.9702**



1. TTLM's Ruth VanBuskirk, and guest speaker, Curtis Swisher. 2. Partner and Volunteer, Brian Garrett & daughter at volunteer night. 3. E&E Coordinator, Ruth VanBuskirk, facilitates E101 class. 4. TTLM staff celebrates JumpStart graduate Jorge getting a job. 5. Volunteer Client Advocate Michelle Smith visits with Misty Snow about job applications. 6. Volunteer Karale Williams helps out at TTLM's social enterprise, The Box. 7. Job Trainee, Alex Pena, assists in TTLM's Social Enterprise store, Refresh. 8. Summer Challenge students learn life skills. 9. Executive Director and Co-Founder Meredith King with Summer Challenge Students. 10. TTLM's Summer Challenge graduates. 11. Summer Challenge students and Refresh sales associate, Marlen Espinoza. 12. Summer Challenge students Tyrique and Skye visit Brazosport Cares Food Pantry. 13. Brazosport High School students display their "fears on monsters" during Club Belay, part of TTLM's Student Services program.



CENTERPOINT POWER OUTAGE ALERTS

Did you know that CenterPoint Energy can send you alerts when your power goes out? They will even send you updates on the estimated time to restore your power. Sign up now to receive alerts via email, text, and/or phone.

For more information please visit <http://lakejackson-tx.gov/poweralerts> or call 713-207-2222.

NEW PARKS HOURS

Please be aware that City Council has recently updated the hours of operations for City parks. New hours are listed below.

PARK FACILITIES HOURS OF OPERATION:

- ▶ Garland, Jasmine, A.A. MacLean, Suggs, and Madge Griffith Parks
5:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m.
- ▶ Wilderness Park Trails
6:00 a.m. to 30 minutes past sunset
- ▶ Wilderness Park Boat Ramps
6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
- ▶ All Other City Parks
5:00 a.m. to 30 minutes past sunset



Keep Lake Jackson Beautiful

Fall Cleanup & RECYCLE DAY



CELEBRATING 35 YEARS!

Festival of
Lights...
Clean Up...
to Light Up!

**Saturday
November 14th**
City Hall 7:30 -11:00 a.m.

- Fun...Food...& special 35th Anniversary surprises.
 - America Recycles Day
 - Scavengers Hunt
 - Shredding on Site
- sponsored by Texas Gulf Bank

Keep Lake Jackson Beautiful





CITY COUNCIL HAPPENINGS

The following business was conducted at City Council open meetings. To view adopted ordinances and resolutions please visit our website at www.lakejackson.tx.gov or contact the City Secretary at arodgers@lakejacksontx.gov or 979-415-2401

For complete details of all City Council meetings, minutes, ordinances and resolutions please visit our website at www.lakejackson-tx.gov

MARCH

- Implemented a plan check fee for commercial businesses
- Approved the Lake Jackson Development Corporation's Strategic Plan

APRIL

- Denied allowing golf carts on city streets
- Adopted 2014 Electrical Code, added Accessibility Code, and updated wording for Electrical, Building, and Plumbing Inspections
- Adopted Resolution Denying Centerpoint Natural Gas rate increase

MAY

- Updated the procedures for the abatement of junked vehicles
- Accepted land donation near the Gulf Coast Regional Airport from Brazoria County to construct a water facilities connect water utilities
- Amended FY 14-15 General Fund Budget to reflect; a) hire personnel generalist mid fiscal year; b) reclassify two part time recreation leaders to one full-time recreation leader with no change in General Fund expenditures

JUNE

- Recognized the 8 & under girls softball team The Lake Jackson Elite on being State Champions
- Increased fees to be charged for water and sewer services by 5%; Effective July 1st
- Approved TXDOT's plan to prohibit left turns onto HWY 332 from the McDonald's/Academy parking area exit and Whataburger parking area exit
- Amended police detention and lockup facility policy
- Amended contract with LJA Engineering, Inc. to update the preliminary flood insurance study along Bastrop Bayou to include technical review of the FEMA updated models and mapping amount not to exceed \$20,000
- Recognized the Brazosport Christian School girls softball team on being State Champions
- Proclaimed June 5th as Dow Appreciation Day for their 75TH Anniversary
- Rezoned a 5.51 acre tract from B-1 (Neighborhood Business) to R-4 (Multi Family) a 6.75 acre tract from B-3 (Institutional) to R-4 (Multi Family), located on the north side of FM 2004 between N. Yaupon and Old Angleton Road
- Included medical offices as permitted uses in business and commercial zones
- Required no cost roofing permits

JULY

- Prohibited street parking on Circle Way on both sides of the street from Winding Way to Oyster Creek Drive
- Revise the agreement with Omkar Enterprise Management, LLC reimbursing Hotel Occupancy Taxes not to exceed \$3 million dollars to develop a Courtyard by Marriott in Lake Jackson and extended default date to December 2017
- Prohibited oil and gas production activities within 750 feet of homes, schools, and churches and enacted a 90 day moratorium on oil and gas production activity
- Rejected all bids for the 2010 infrastructure improvements: S. Yaupon & Magnolia linings (slope paving); project no. 15-08-724
- Accepted \$15,000 donation from the Lake Jackson Evening Lion's Club for the building of a city dog park
- Extended the project completion deadline for a public CNG fueling facility on Medical Drive
- Allowed the Lake Jackson Soccer Club to renovate soccer field A2 at Maclean Park with assistance from Brazoria County at no cost to the city

AUGUST

- Adopted Budget and Tax Rate of \$0.36
- Established curfews for all city parks
- Accepted donation of \$5,000 from Ricochet's for the construction of a city dog park
- Rezoned a 4.579 acre tract from B-3 (Institutional) to C-1 (Commercial) on Lake Road behind the Dollar Tree and Hobby Lobby and next to Family Life Church
- Added a no parking zone on Grapevine Turn and a portion of Center Way
- Accepted grant funding of \$125,000 from the DE-Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant for radio upgrades



Holiday Garbage Pickup Schedule

There will be NO collection of household garbage or recyclables on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. Please do not set garbage out on these days. The City of Lake Jackson sanitation crews collect household garbage and recyclables every other holiday during the year.



Christmas Tree Collection



The City will be collecting Christmas trees from December 28, 2015, thru January 23, 2016. A container will also be available at the Mulch site for Christmas Tree drop

off. The trees collected will be used to restore the sand dunes at the Brazoria County beaches. After January 24 the trees will be picked up for the mulch site on your regular pickup days. If you have any questions, please contact Public Works.



Do You Have New Information??

LOOK!!

Please call the Water Department today to update your information. 979-415-2434

Avoid the lines - Pay your bill ONLINE!



Go to www.lakejackson-tx.gov and click on "Online Payments."

Did you know seniors 65 and older are eligible for a discount on their water bill?



PUBLIC WORKS QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: What Is Rainwater Harvesting?

A: Rainwater harvesting is the collecting and storing of rainwater. You can collect rainwater from a roof, which is the most common method, and store it in catchment tanks, such as rain barrels.



Benefits of Harvesting Rainwater

- The water is free.
- Rainwater is better for plants than chemically treated water.
- Rainwater harvesting can help reduce flow to storm water drains and reduce stream pollution.
- Using stored rainwater can reduce utility bills.

Other Incentives:

Texas Tax Code 151.355 exempts rainwater-harvesting equipment from sales tax. To download the Texas Sales and Use Tax Exemption Certificate, visit www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/taxforms/01-339.pdf.

Civic Center

Lake Jackson CIVIC CENTER



Civic Center 415-2600

Monday thru Friday 8a.m. - 5 p.m.
333 Texas HWY 332

Seniors

The Lake Jackson Senior Citizens Commission upholds their mission of "making a difference in the life of every person who is 55 and older".

The Lake Jackson Senior Commission meets every 4th Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. at the Civic Center.

You are invited to attend!

Keep Posted on Current Events

- Check our ad in Wednesdays' Facts
- Website at www.lakejackson-tx.gov
- Channel 16 Comcast
- The LJ Civic Center

New Years Eve Dance! Featuring "Intercoastal Pirates"

When: Thursday, December 31, 2015
8:00 p.m. - 12:30 a.m.

Cost: Individual Tickets \$20
Table of 10 \$200

Setups, black-eye peas & dessert bar!

BYOB **21 & over only please!**

SPACE IS LIMITED!

Marty White & The Blue Clear Sky Band! George Strait Tribute!!!

When: Saturday, January 30, 2016
8:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Cost: Individual Tickets \$20
Table of 10 \$200

BYOB **21 & Over only please!**

Setups provided.

SPACE IS LIMITED!

Senior Fest 2016 "Wild About Seniors"

When: Saturday, February 6, 2016
9:00 a.m. - 12 noon

Cost: Free to seniors 55 & Older
Interactive booths, games, brunch!



UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER 10

Card Making Class • 6-8 p.m.

NOVEMBER 12

Thanksgiving Dinner • 5-7 p.m.
\$7 per person

NOVEMBER 23

Discussion Group • 10 a.m.-12 noon
Speaker TBA

DECEMBER 7

Dinner Theatre Comedy Show
\$10 per person

DECEMBER 8

Card Making Class • 6-8 p.m.

FEBRUARY 6

Senior Fest • 9 a.m.-12 noon

All events held at the Lake Jackson Civic Center.
R.S.V.P. to 979-415-2600.

Library



OPEN HOUSE

Hogwarts
Yule Ball



The Lake Jackson Library, a branch of Brazoria County Library System, will hold its fourth annual Holiday Open House Saturday, December 5 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. The public is invited to enjoy crafts, refreshments, entertainment, and a special visit from Santa himself!

On December 12 the Lake Jackson Library, a branch of Brazoria County Library System, will transform into Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry for their second annual Hogwarts Yule Ball. The party is a lock-in event for ages 12 and up from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., and registration is required.

For fans of Harry Potter, this is a fun way to celebrate the holiday. Attendees can come dressed as their favorite character or wear “dress robes” as they’re

called in the books. The library will have a sorting ceremony and keep guests entertained all evening with pizza, trivia, games, crafts, music, and prizes. Guests will be able to

decorate a wand to keep, get their fortune told by Madame Trelawney, and create tasty candy concoctions in potions class.

“Our first Yule Ball last year was so much fun, and we’re excited to bring Hogwarts back again this year,” says Stephanie Williamson, children’s specialist at Lake Jackson Library. “Our Horcrux Relay will be back and better than last year! Our house elves are hard at work to make it more challenging and fun.”

The event is free, but registration is required. Because it is an after-hours event, children under the age of 18 must have a signed permission slip from a parent. Call the library at 979-415-2590 or visit the branch for registration information.

Library 415-2590

Mon., Wed., Thurs. 10 a.m.-8 p.m. • Tues. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Fri. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. • Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. • Closed Sun.

Museum



Preservation Roadshow: Photos and Documents -November 14th

Do you have boxes of photos from parents and grandparents around your house? How about documents from your family history? Many people have boxes or photo albums hidden in closets or attics filled with family history they don't know what to do with. Join us on Saturday, November 14th at 11 a.m. with David Murrah as we learn how to best preserve photos and documents for future generations. All program guests are encouraged to bring a photo or document that might need extra attention for our expert to assess. This event is FREE, but RSVP is required as seating is limited. A light luncheon is included.



Museum 297-1570

Tues. thru Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. • Sun. 1 - 4 p.m.
249 Circle Way • www.lakejacksonmuseum.org



Abner Jackson Plantation Site

Open the 1st Saturday of every month from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Alden B. Dow Office Museum

Open the 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

CITY OF LAKE JACKSON PRESENTS

Breakfast with Santa

November 21, 2015
8 a.m. - 10 a.m.
at the Lake Jackson Historical Museum

Kick off Festival of Lights with a pancake breakfast at the Lake Jackson Historical Museum from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Your family can visit with Santa, play games, and make a craft! Tickets are \$5 per person for Association Members and \$10 per person for non-members. Children ages 1 and under are free.

Call or stop by the Museum today to reserve your tickets. Tickets are limited.

TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED BY NOV. 14!



This event is proudly sponsored by and the City of Lake Jackson.



Recreational Events

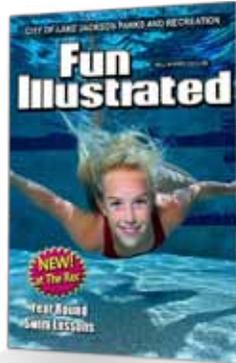
For information about Special Events
contact Mallory Doyle at (979) 297-4533
or mdoyle@lakejacksontx.gov



New Fall & Winter Fun Illustrated

Check out what programs and events the Lake Jackson Parks and Recreation Department have to offer you and your family!

Pick up the latest issue at the Lake Jackson Recreation Center or view it at www.lakejackson-tx.gov/parksandrecreation.



Fall Swim Lessons



Facility: The Recreation Center

Fee: 8 lessons \$30/members - \$35/non-members
(mini sessions \$15/members - \$17.50/non-members)

Date: Mondays and Wednesdays for 4 weeks

Nov. 2-25

Dec. 7-16 (mini session)

Jan. 4-29

Feb. 1-25



Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center Blood Drive

Schedule an appointment online at www.giveblood.org, enter sponsor code 0201, or walk-ins are welcome!

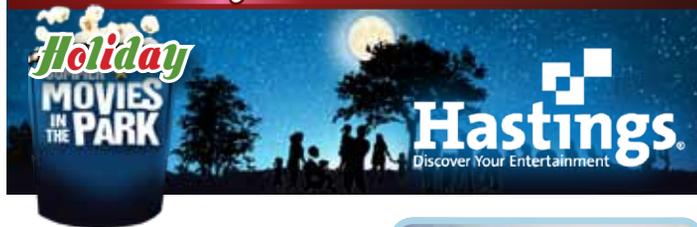


Facility: The Recreation Center, Studio 5

Date: Tuesdays
December 29, February 23 & April 19

Time: 2:00-6:30 p.m.

Holiday Movie in the Park



Showing Elf.
Facility MacLean Pavilion
Date: Friday, December 11
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Age: All ages
Fee: FREE



\$1 Hot Chocolate, Cider, and Concessions

TAAF Youth Basketball

Facility: The Recreation Center

Registration: Sept. 7 through Nov. 29

Age: 5-12

Fee: \$45/members, \$65/non-member
for recreational players
(includes uniform t-shirts)

Date: Practices- will start Dec. 7
Games- Saturdays begin Jan. 9



Registration discount for volunteer coaches!

Men's Adult Flag Football

Facility: MacLean Adult Football Field

Registration: NO EXCEPTIONS

Winter- Nov. 30 through Dec. 28

Spring- Feb. 8 through Mar. 6

Time: Games start at 6:30 p.m. on Thursdays

Age: 18+

Fee: \$300/team

Season Starts:

Winter- Thursdays, Jan. 7

Spring- Thursdays, Mar. 17



The Rec Center 297-4533

Recreational Events



Men's USSSA League

Facility: MacLean Adult Softball Complex
Registration: NO EXCEPTIONS
Winter- Nov. 30 through Dec. 28
Spring- Feb. 8 through Mar. 6
Time: Games start at 6:30 pm on Wednesdays
Age: 18+
Fee: \$350/team
Season Starts:
Winter- Wednesdays, Jan. 6
Spring- Wednesdays, Mar. 16



Adult Co-ed Adult Kickball

Facility: MacLean Adult Softball Complex
Registration: NO EXCEPTIONS
Feb. 15 through Mar. 20
Time: Games start 6:30 pm on Sundays
Age: 16+
Fee: \$200/team
Season Starts: March 27



Daddy & Daughter Dance

A special evening just for Daddy's and their daughters! Join us for a "Star Struck" night of dancing, refreshments, photography, door prizes & more!

Facility: The Civic Center Ballroom
Date: Friday, February 12
Time: 6:30-9:30 p.m.
Age: All ages
Fee: \$25 per couple, \$10 each additional child
Ticket Sales: January 4 – February 5 (or until SOLD OUT)



**LIMITED TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE –
ADVANCE TICKETS ONLY – TICKETS WILL
NOT BE SOLD AT THE DOOR!**

Kids Easter Egg Hunt

Thursday, March 24, 5:30 pm SHARP! at MacLean Park.
FREE event. Over 10,000 candy filled eggs hidden throughout the park!

Age Categories:

- Babies & Non-Walkers
(This is the only group where the child may be assisted)
- Ages 2 & under
- Ages 3-5
- Ages 6-8
- Ages 9-11



Bring your Easter basket and don't forget to bring your camera for photos with the Easter Bunny!



1st Annual Adult Flashlight Egg Scramble

Bring a flashlight a bag and your friends and join us for this fun scramble to collect eggs in the dark.

We will have over 5,000 eggs for you to collect in this "egg-citing" event! Eggs will be filled with candy and some special eggs will have prize coupons as well!



**Tickets
\$7**

**Thursday, March 24, 2016
at MacLean Park
8:30 p.m. SHARP (Gates open at 7:45 p.m.)**

Over \$2,000 in prizes!

Prizes include an X-Box 360, Flat Screen HDTV, Tablets, Gift Certificates, Outdoor Gear, Rec Center Memberships, Movie Tickets and more!

ALL Participants must be over 18 and preregister at the Recreation Center.

Registration begins on March 1 is limited to the first 400 Adults, so register early!

27th Annual Festival of Lights 2015

THE CIVIC CENTER and Surrounding Areas

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21 • 10AM-9PM

Children's Activities! - 11:00am-5:00pm



Stage Entertainment
throughout the day!



Breakfast With Santa

8:00am-10:00am

Food & Craft Booths

10:00am-6:00pm

Snowland

11:00am-3:00pm



Peppermint Park!

Come check out this year's new feature. You will be able to make cocoa with Santa, make your own reindeer food, and see live reindeer and Santa's sleigh!

11:00am-3:00pm

Magic Show for Kids

1:00pm & 3:00pm

LIGHTED PARADE

Downtown Lake Jackson • 7:00pm

WAGNER'S CARNIVAL - NOVEMBER 19-22



Police

Police 415-2700



BLUE SANTA PROGRAM

For more than 10 years the Lake Jackson Police Department has been spreading the Christmas spirit by delivering toys and food to less fortunate families throughout

the Brazosport area. If you or your organization would like to help support the Blue Santa program, cash and new unwrapped gifts can be dropped off at the Police Department at anytime.

If your family needs assistance this Christmas season, please visit our website at www.lakejackson-tx.gov/bluesanta to complete an application. Applications can also be picked up at the Police Department. The deadline for receiving requests for assistance is December 12, 2015.

Also help support the Blue Santa Program through your participation in the following events:

- * **Teddy Bear Tea hosted by Junior Service League of Brazosport**
- * **Burgers with Blue Santa**

CITIZEN POLICE ACADEMY



The next class of the Lake Jackson Adult Citizen Police Academy will be held in the spring 2016. Applications can be picked up at the Lake Jackson Police Department, or on the Lake Jackson police Department website.

There is no charge for this course.

The Citizen Police Academy is a 30-hour block of instruction designed to give the public a working knowledge of the Lake Jackson Police Department. The course consists of a series of ten classes held each Tuesday night for three (3) hours. Each night a different topic will be covered by police personnel and supervisors assigned to the different units of the department.

The slogan of the Lake Jackson Police Academy is “Better Understanding Through Education”. The goal of the academy is to provide interested citizens with enough information to dispel suspicions and misconceptions about the police and to increase rapport between the department and the community through an educative process. We believe that officers will in turn become more aware of the public’s feelings and concerns. Lastly, participants will have the opportunity to personally meet and talk with many officers through the department while providing our officers the chance to meet many concerned citizens representing a wide variety of community interests.

Anyone with questions may contact the LJPD

DISTRACTED DRIVING



Did you know that every day in the United States, more than 9 people are killed and more than 1,060 people are injured in crashes that involve a distracted driver? Please keep your eyes on the road and don’t let your distracted driving endanger yourself and everyone else.

LIKE THE POLICE DEPARTMENT FACEBOOK PAGE

Just a short reminder to our Facebook friends! If you have a problem or have information that needs immediate police attention, PLEASE do not post it! The page is maintained by staff on a “when we can” basis, and is not intended for calls needing an officer right away.

We all love Facebook and sharing information with the citizens. We ask that you help us to give you the best service possible by contacting us directly at 979-415-2700 with information needing immediate attention, or 911 for emergencies.

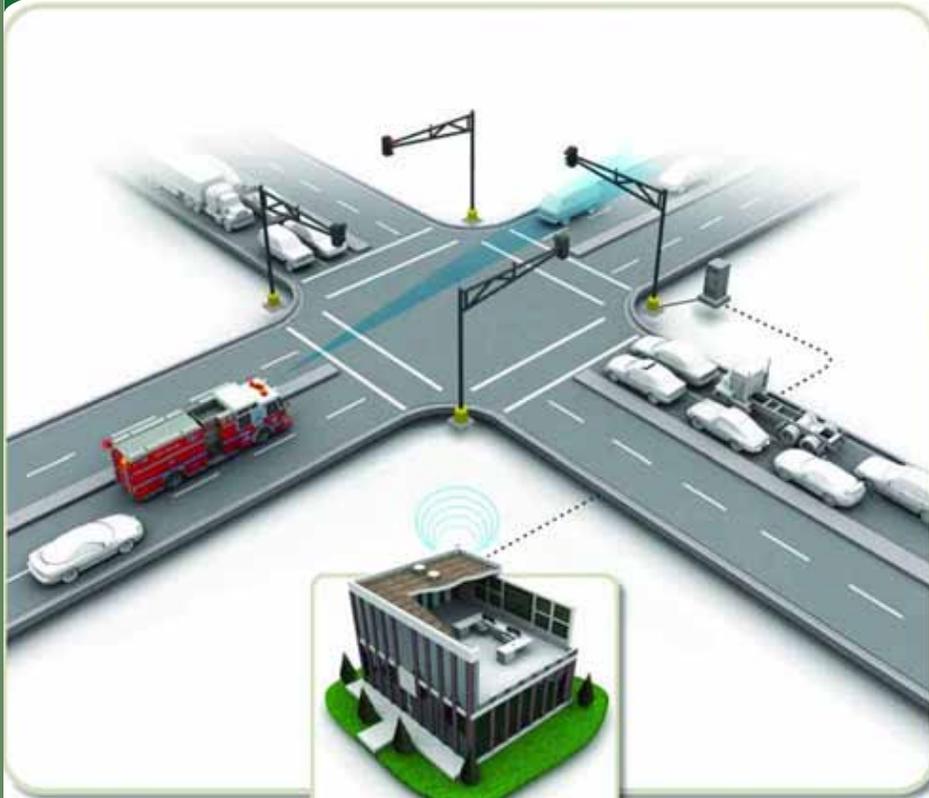


Coming Soon you will be able to follow the Police Department on Twitter.



Opticom system

Community Partners Fund Expansion of City's Traffic Signal Preemption System



In late March the City installed the Opticom Traffic Preemption System at the intersection of SH-288 and Oak Drive. Now, thanks to the generous support of Dow and the Lake Jackson Emergency Medical Service (LJEMS), the City will install the Opticom system at six more intersections by early next year.

The Opticom system is designed to increase traffic safety for emergency vehicles at equipped intersections. When an equipped emergency response vehicle approaches a signalized intersection with its emergency lights engaged, the Opticom system transmits a signal to the traffic light that will help clear a path for the emergency vehicle by giving it a green light and turning all the other lights red.



Not only will the expanded system help reduce intersection crashes for emergency vehicles, it will also improve the overall service provided by our emergency departments by decreasing response times by as much as 25 percent.





YOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT NEEDS YOU!

If your home were to start on fire today who would put out that fire? For a vast majority of Americans the people who will put out that fire will be volunteers. The men and women responding will be the same people who are also your plumbers, chemical operator and bank tellers. According to the National Volunteer Fire Council (www.nfvc.org) in the United States there are just over 30,000 fire departments. Only 2,000 of these departments have a 100% full time paid staff. The remaining 28,000 fill their ranks with citizens donating their time. Unfortunately the number of people willing and/or able to join the local fire department is diminishing. In 1984 there were almost 900,000 individuals in the volunteer fire service. Today that number is dipping below 800,000 individuals. Yet suburban communities (who typically cannot afford full time fire protection) continue to grow.

Fire Sprinklers and Smoke Detectors Save Lives!

Lake Jackson Volunteer Fire Department & Lake Jackson Fire Marshal's Office

WHY VOLUNTEER?

In the simplest of terms, volunteering is a dedicated commitment by an individual for the positive benefit of others.

WHY SHOULD I VOLUNTEER WITH THE FIRE DEPARTMENT?

Only the individual can truly know why he or she chooses to become a volunteer. There are many who will say because it feels good to help others. Some may say they like the excitement and the challenges they face. Others may say my father and grandfather volunteered..(mothers too!)

But only you, the individual, will really know why you want to volunteer and that is perfectly fine. We encourage you to talk with our members and to consider volunteering with one of the longest volunteer traditions in the country.

WHO IS THE LAKE JACKSON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT?

LJVFD is comprised of all volunteers, from the Fire Chief down to the newest member. We have 48 members running out of two fire stations and operating 16 pieces of city equipment. We are broke down into three companies and respond to an average of 550 calls a year and conduct fire training every Wednesday night from 6pm-8pm.

If you are interested in talking to someone about becoming a Lake Jackson Volunteer Firefighter, come by Fire Station # 1 (Located at 10 Oak Drive) or email the Fire Chief at firechief@lakejacksontx.gov
THE CITY NEEDS YOU!

Thanks,

Mike Harper/Fire Chief

Mike Harper/Fire Chief

City Budget



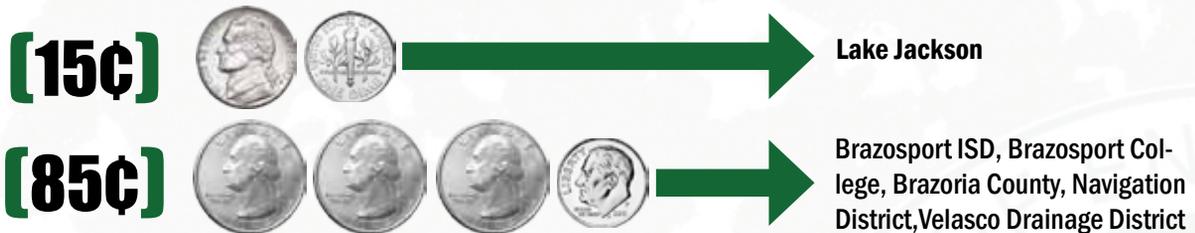
Fiscal Year 2015-16 Budget Highlights

Property Tax Rate

Local industry is booming and property values are increasing. Lake Jackson's 2015 certified values are \$1.65 billion. Our 2014 values as of April, 30 2015 were \$1.49 billion. This is a 10.2% increase in values, of which \$33 million is from new value being added to the tax roll.

It has been the City's tradition that when property values go up the tax rate is lowered so as to generate only what is needed to fund operations. For FY15-16 the tax rate was lowered from 38.75 cents to 36 cents.

For every \$1 of your overall property tax bill...



Utility Rates

As the utility system ages and the cost to maintain the infrastructure also increases, our utility fund is struggling to keep pace. The biggest culprit is that our revenue projections are based on an average annual consumption, and that average continues to decline. We had thought we were being conservative in preparing the FY14-15 budget when we used an average residential consumption of 6,550 gallons per month. At this time our average usage has dropped below 6,000 gallons and most households use 5,000 gallons or less.

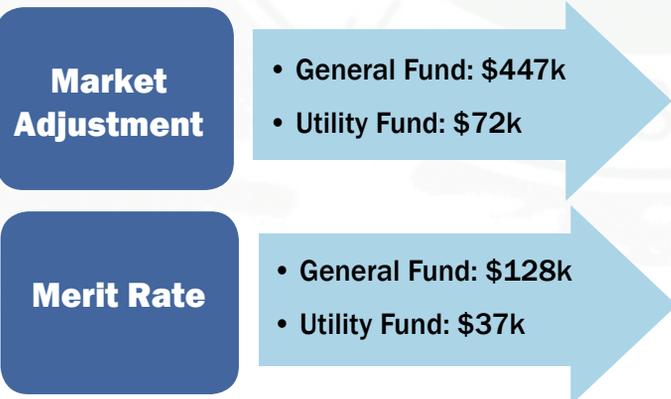
To help bring utility revenues in line with expenditures, City Council has recently authorized two rate increases. In June City Council authorized an initial 5% rate increase on both water and sewer effective July 1st. Then as part of the FY15-16 budget City Council authorized a second rate increase of 5% for water and sewer rates as well as an 8% increase on sanitation rates. When compared to the rates adopted with the FY14-15 budget a household using 5,000 gallons of water will pay \$7.18 more per month.

	Adopted FY14-15 Budget	Rates Adopted Effective 7/1/15	Adopted FY15-16 Effective 10/1/15
Water (5,000 gals.)	\$22.20	\$23.33	\$24.90
Sewer (5,000 gals.)	22.80	\$23.96	\$25.80
Sanitation	14.87	\$14.87	\$16.06
Recycling	2.20	\$2.20	\$2.38
State sales tax	1.41	\$1.41	\$1.52
Total Bill 5,000 Gals.	\$63.48	\$65.77	\$70.66

Employee Compensation

During the last recession, the City held its employees' salaries steady, which has led to the salary of some positions falling as much as 20% behind the market. It has become increasingly difficult to attract new employees and to retain our existing employees.

Now that revenues are growing at a healthy rate, the City is offering market adjustments of up to 8% and a merit raise of 2%. What a specific employee receives is dependent on how their pay range compares to the market.

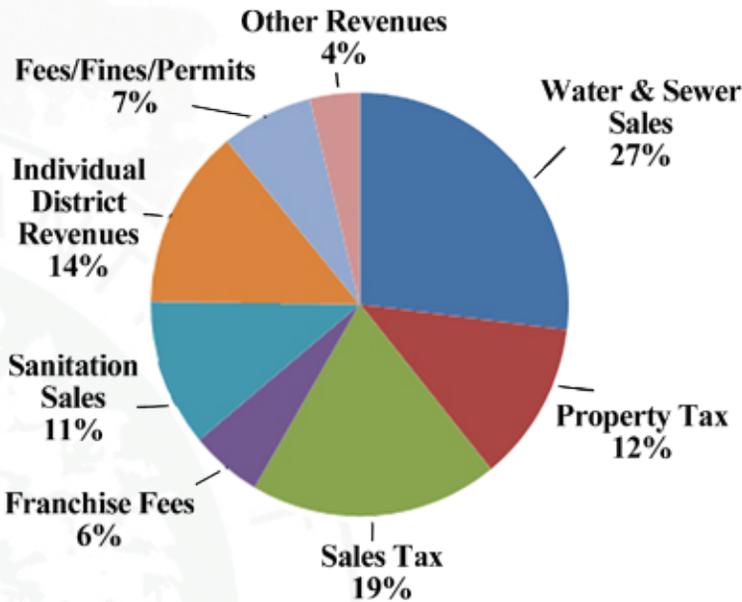


City Budget SUMMARY

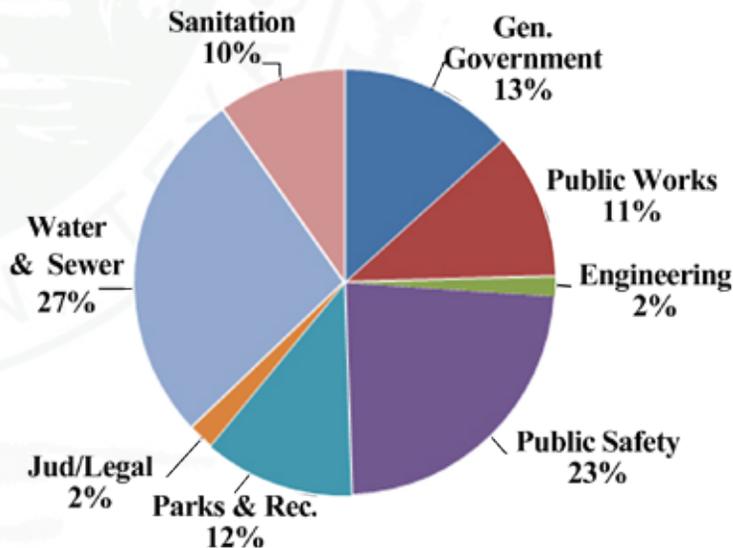


City Council adopted the FY15-16 budget on Monday, August 31st, 2015. A complete copy of the budget may be viewed on our website at www.lakejackson-tx.gov or you may visit the Lake Jackson Library to view a hard copy.

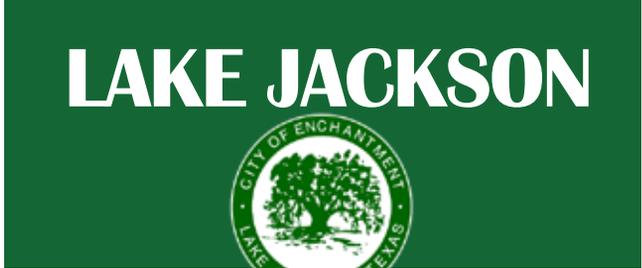
Where does the money come from?



Where does the money go?



Cut and remove this portion to keep as a reminder of involvement in the Bond Task Force and attending the public forum.



BOND PUBLIC FORUM

Come and provide your input on the potential projects for the May 2016 Bond Election

Thursday, November 12th

6:00 pm

at The Lake Jackson Civic Center

BOND TASK FORCE

City Council has formed a Citizen Bond Issue Task Force to discuss a future bond issue to fund additional infrastructure improvements. The Task Force held their first meeting on Monday, September 14, 2015. They are meeting every 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at 6 p.m. in the Council Chambers through the month of November. They will then present their final report to City Council on Monday, December 7th at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

Currently our debt service payment is scheduled to drop as we retire previously approved debt. The declining debt payment, in addition to the tax rate being lowered by 2.75 cents, provides a window of opportunity to issue new debt while keeping that tax rate below 40 cents.

If you are interested in learning more about this process, you may contact the City Manager's Office at (979) 415-2500.

Construction Update



COURTS PROJECT

The final Phase of the 2010 Bond Program involving the rehabilitation of Camellia Street, Camellia Court, Blue Bonnet Court, Elm Court, Hybiscus Court, Lantana Court, Lupine Court, Periwinkle Court and Vinca Court began April 27th.

The reconstruction of the courts is now completed as well as half of Camellia Street. Utility crews have been steadily working ahead of the paving crews and Sorrell Construction has managed to remain on schedule despite the weather delays.

As the project wraps up, there will be periodic traffic disruptions and restricted access through work zone areas. Please use caution and observe all traffic, directional, and speed limit signs.

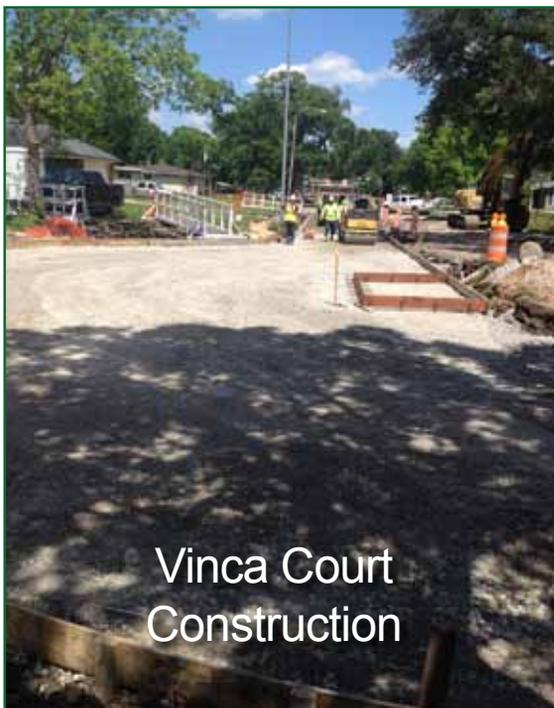
We apologize for any inconveniences and we thank you for your patience during this much needed street improvement project.



Vinca Court
Before



Vinca Court
After



Vinca Court
Construction

DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION

The sixth phase of the Downtown Revitalization Project, This Way between Circle Way & SH 332, has been in the planning stages since October 2014. Baker & Lawson, Inc. of Angleton drafted the civil plans, which will include pavement, sidewalk, drainage, illumination, signing, utility and landscape improvements.

The construction bids for the project were opened on September 16th. You can visit our website at www.lakejacksontx.gov/constructionprojects to see what company was awarded the contract and to view the area affected by the construction.

New Developments



INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION

Lake Jackson and the surrounding Brazosport area are continuing to grow as local industry is expanding and investing billions of dollars into our local economy. It has been an exciting year for the City of Lake Jackson with the opening of the new H-E-B downtown, the completion of two of the five buildings at the Dow Texas Innovation Center, and the opening of new restaurants such as Big Thai, Panera Bread, and Raising Cane's.

This year has also seen the groundbreaking on three new housing developments. Up near the Oyster Bend Subdivision and behind the college, there are already several single-family homes under construction in the Creekside Subdivision, which will eventually have 224 new homes. Construction has also started on the Plantation Park and Urban Crest developments, which will include over 500 apartment units between the two projects.

INCREASING ACCOMODATIONS

There continues to be a lot of interest in our area and the City is regularly meeting with developers to discuss potential projects. These discussions can last several months and not all the projects discussed come to fruition. Recently the City has been working with developers on two hotel projects that, if approved, could begin construction in early 2016.



The first proposed hotel would be a Courtyard by Marriott located on the eastside of the Mall near the frontage road. The new hotel would have 116 rooms, over 6,500 square feet of meeting space, a full service restaurant, a bar, and room service.

The other hotel will be La Quinta's newest Del Sol model and will be located on Lake Road just north of the Family Life Church and behind Hobby Lobby. The new La Quinta will have four stories and about 90 rooms.





Water Dept. & Utilities

Forms and Applications

MAKING IT EASY TO PAY YOUR UTILITY BILL

1. Come to City Hall and make your payment with cash, check or credit card
 2. Mail your payment to 25 Oak Drive, Lake Jackson TX 77566
 3. Sign up for Auto Bank Draft*
 4. Go to our website, click on the button that says "Online Payments"*
- *You will need your account number to do this. There is no charge for this.

cut along dotted line

Senior Citizen Discount

Dont forget to sign up for your SENIOR CITIZEN DISCOUNT if you are eligible. If you or your spouse are 65 or older, you qualify for the discount. Just complete the form and bring it in to the Water Department.



senior citizen discount

Current Name On Account: _____

Service Address: _____

Account Number: _____

Is the qualifying person listed on this account? Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Social Security Number (last 4 only): _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Pay Online



You can now go online to track your bills, make payments, and view usage on your account. Go to our website and download the instructions to signup at <http://lakejackson-tx.gov/billpay>.

RECEIVE YOUR WATER BILL BY EMAIL!!!!!!!

After signing up for this service you will receive an email telling you that e-notification has been successfully set up on your account. When your account bills, an email will be sent notifying you of a new bill. The email will show you the amount due and the due date. Currently we will continue to send the paper bill as well. In the future, we may give you the option to stop paper billing and just receive email notifications. If you are interested in signing up for E-Notifications please complete the following form and return it to the water department.

email my water bill to me

Account Number: _____

Name on Account: _____

Service Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

cut along dotted line

LOOKING FOR AN EASY AND CONVENIENT WAY TO PAY YOUR WATER BILL?

Never worry about late bills again!

Sign up for Automatic Bank Draft

There is no charge for this service. Your payment will be taken out of your account on your due date each month. Bills are still mailed out each month showing the amount due and the due date. Just complete the form, attach a voided check and return it to the water department. It's that easy!



CITY OF LAKE JACKSON
25 Oak Drive, Lake Jackson TX 77566-5289
Phone: 979-415-2434 Fax: 979-297-9804
AUTHORIZATION FOR AUTOMATIC PAYMENT

Name on Your Utility Statement: _____

Utility Account Number: _____

Service Address: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Driver's License Number: _____ Social Security Number (Last four digits): _____

Home Phone Number: _____ Work Phone Number: _____

Financial Institution: _____

Financial Institution Address (City & State): _____

BANK ACCOUNT NUMBER TO CHARGE: _____ **Checking / Savings**

PLEASE READ BEFORE SIGNING!!!!

I authorize the City of Lake Jackson to begin deductions for my monthly utility bill with the financial institution named. Enrollment in the automatic payment plan may be discontinued any time by sending a request, in writing, to the City of Lake Jackson. My authority will remain in effect until revoked by my financial institution, the City of Lake Jackson, or myself. I understand that both my financial institution and the City of Lake Jackson have the right to terminate this payment plan or my participation therein. If I have two insufficient bank drafts within a year, the City will terminate my enrollment in bank drafting.

I understand that I will be responsible for the first bill that I receive after the City obtains my application. However, if my bank is currently set up in the bank drafting program, my automatic payment plan will be effective with my first bill. This bill will have a message at the bottom stating: **BANK DRAFT – DO NOT PAY. PAYMENT WILL BE DRAFTED ON THE DUE DATE!**

Signature (Must be authorized for the account listed above) Date

WRITE "VOID" ACROSS CHECK AND **TAPE** HERE
(please tape – DO NOT STAPLE)



City of Lake Jackson
25 Oak Drive
Lake Jackson, TX 77566

The City of  *Enchantment*



NOTIFY ME



Blackboard
connect™

COMMUNICATION INFORMATION (Blackboard Connect CTY)

Interested in receiving pre-recorded phone calls about emergencies, street closures and other important happenings in the city?

Visit our website www.lakejackson-tx.gov go to
Blackboard Connect to sign up today.



Check us out on Facebook - www.facebook.com/lakejackson

Follow us on Twitter - www.twitter.com/lakejacksontx



Tune In Channel 16

The City of Lake Jackson has Cable Channel 16 to provide a variety of information. For questions concerning information on this channel, contact Michael Coon at 979-415-2407.