



The Woodlands Township E-Newsletter

Important News

July 2009

Red, Hot & Blue Festival Fireworks in The Woodlands Town Center

While residential fireworks are prohibited in The Woodlands, the commercially-produced Fireworks Extravaganza of The Red, Hot & Blue Festival is permitted and is expected to take place around 9:15 p.m. Saturday, July 4 from Timberloch Place just east of Woodloch Forest Drive. The show can best be viewed along most points of The Woodlands Waterway. For all the event information, visit www.redhotblue.org or email info@thewoodlandscvb.com.

Upcoming Meetings at The Woodlands Township

The June Executive Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 15, 2009 at 9 a.m. The next Regularly Scheduled Board of Directors Meeting is Wednesday, July 22, 2009 at 9 a.m. All meetings will be held in The Woodlands Township Board Room, 10001 Woodloch Forest Drive, Suite 600, The Woodlands, Texas 77380. For directions, go to www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov.

June 2009 Sales and Hotel Occupancy Tax Update for The Woodlands Township

Sales Tax deposit for the month of June 2009:

- Actual Deposit \$1,866,910
- Over 2009 Budget by \$80,250, or 4.5%
- Over 2008 Actual by \$116,144, or 6.6%

Hotel Occupancy Tax deposit for the month of June 2009:

- Actual Deposit \$299,516
- Under 2009 Projection by \$82,991, or -21.7%
- Under 2008 Actual by \$81,697, or -21.4%

Upcoming Budget Meetings

On November 6, 2007, the voters authorized The Woodlands Township Board of Directors to assess, levy, and collect an annual ad valorem tax on a uniform basis upon all taxable property included within its expanded boundaries. In accordance with the Transition Agreement, The Woodlands Township will assess a property tax by September 1, 2009 payable in 2010. In order to facilitate the adoption of the 2010 budget and the adoption of a tax rate, the following budget workshop dates have been scheduled:

- Wednesday, July 29, 2009 – 1st Board budget workshop (9 a.m.)
- Wednesday, August 5, 2009 – 2nd Board budget workshop (9 a.m.)
- Wednesday, August 12, 2009 – 3rd Board budget workshop (9 a.m.)
- Wednesday, August 19, 2009 – 4th Board budget workshop (scheduled to follow the Executive Committee meeting)
- Wednesday, August 26, 2009 – 5th Board budget workshop (concurrent with the regularly scheduled Board meeting)

2008 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report Online

Each year, The Woodlands Township produces the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and this document has won numerous awards. The most notable is the Certificate of

Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for comprehensive annual financial reports. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. The Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program including demonstrating a constructive “spirit of full disclosure” to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and groups to read the CAFR. The GFOA is a nonprofit professional association serving approximately 17,000 government finance professionals with offices in Chicago, Il and Washington, D.C. The Woodlands Township has won this award for three consecutive years. The 2008 CAFR can be found online at <http://www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/index.aspx?nid=332>.

Town Hall meeting scheduled Wednesday, July 29, 2009

A Town Hall Meeting has been scheduled by The Woodlands Township from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday, July 29, 2009 at The Woodlands Waterway Marriott Hotel & Convention Center. At the meeting, the 2010 budget of The Woodlands Township will be presented.

Mandatory water restrictions issued for The Woodlands, Texas

Mandatory water restrictions have been initiated by The Woodlands Joint Powers Agency. The restrictions include The Woodlands Municipal Utility Districts (MUDs) in Montgomery County, according to James M. Stinson, P.E., general manager of The Woodlands Joint Powers Agency. To reduce stress on the water supply system and allow adequate pressure for early morning household needs, automatic irrigation timers should be set to complete all watering cycles by 4 a.m. Residential and commercial customers with even numbered addresses (0, 2, 4, 6, 8) are restricted to watering on Sundays and Thursdays; customers with odd numbered addresses (1, 3, 5, 7, 9) are restricted to watering on Saturdays and Wednesdays. Fines up to \$200 per violation may be imposed for repeat offenders.

12th Annual Red, Hot & Blue Festival and Fireworks Extravaganza

The Woodlands Convention & Visitors Bureau is producing the 12th Annual Red, Hot & Blue Festival to be held on Saturday, July 4, 2009. The Festival, presented by MICRO-MAINFRAME Consultants, Inc., will be held at Town Green Park and Waterway Square™ from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Activities at Town Green Park include the HEB Hot Dog and Watermelon Eating Contests, Donoho Jewellery’s jewelry making activities, Silver Eagle Oasis Garden and live entertainment by Yelba & Max Cat and much more! The Josh Ward Band and Roman Torres will be the live entertainment at Waterway Square. The Fireworks, presented by Woodforest National Bank, will begin at dusk (approximately 9:15 p.m.) and simulcast on Sunny 99.1. The best fireworks viewing locations are: Waterway Square, North side of The Woodlands Waterway, turning basin of Town Green Park and East of Waterway Avenue. At 8:50 p.m., 9:00 p.m. and 9:10 p.m. watch, look, and listen for the fireworks warning shots fired to get into the best position for the fireworks. For more details, visit www.redhotblue.org.

Inaugural Class Graduates from CERT Training Course

The Woodlands Fire Department and the Montgomery County Office of Emergency Management recognized the graduation of 35 Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members on Tuesday, June 30, 2009 at The Woodlands Emergency Training Center. The CERT class members participated in an eight-week program on such topics as Disaster Preparedness, Disaster Medical Operations, Light Search and Rescue, and Disaster Psychology. CERT prepares participants to help themselves, their families and their neighbors in the event of a disaster. To sign up or for more information, please call The Woodlands Fire Department CERT Facilitator Rachel Mitchell at 281-367-3444.

The Woodlands Fire Department receives grant for firefighting training

Part of a nationwide philanthropic program funded by Fireman's Fund Insurance Company, The Woodlands Fire Department recently received a \$5,886 grant. The grant will enable the Department to purchase state-of-the-art computer-based emergency simulation training programs that focus on various hazardous situations. Each simulation module will focus on real-life scenarios and how to deal with various hazardous situations safely and effectively. The computer-based scenarios allow multiple firefighters to work as a team to enhance firefighter safety by giving participants the opportunity to practice and develop critical decision making under training conditions. The new modules will include a variety of training topics to build confidence and build team work.

The Woodlands Fire Department acquires new mini-pumper

The Woodlands Fire Department recently purchased a new mini-pumper, Attack 101. Funded by The Woodlands Township, this economical apparatus gives firefighters everything they need to take on almost any emergency, all in one compact package. Whether answering a first response call or combating smaller incidents such as car fires, Attack 101 will be a valuable addition to The Woodlands Fire Department. Attack 101 will operate out of Central Fire Station, 9951 Grogan's Mill Road, serving the villages of Grogan's Mill and Panther Creek and The Woodlands Town Center.

Beusa Energy, Inc. leases top floor of new 4 Waterway Square office building

Beusa Energy, Inc. is an exploration and production company engaged in the acquisition, development and production of oil and natural gas properties. They have leased the entire top floor of the new Waterway Square Class A office building in The Woodlands Waterway Square District. The anticipated move-in date is December 2009.

The Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion Event Lineup

The Pavilion's season continues to offer an exciting venue of concerts and events:

Friday, July 3 - Houston Symphony Star-Spangled Salute

Friday, July 10 - Chicago and Earth, Wind & Fire

Friday, July 17 - Aerosmith with ZZ top

For a complete list of entertainment, please visit www.woodlandscenter.org.

Transition Update

As The Woodlands Township and The Community Associations of The Woodlands move towards Transition, updated information is posted at The Woodlands Township website. A special section of Transition & Governance can be found at the following link:

<http://www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/index.asp?nid=256>.

View Public Meeting Videos on the Township Website

All public meetings are available online at The Woodlands Township website. Audio and visual are available in order to make the meetings more accessible for the residents of The Woodlands. Visit <http://video.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov> to view the videos.

For more information about The Woodlands Township, please visit www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov or by calling 281-363-2447.