

January 2012

To All the Residents of Selma,

Happy 2012! We all here at City Hall hope our residents had a wonderful Holiday break and a safe New Year's Eve.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, we have so much planned for the city in the year ahead. First, as the year begins I would like to acknowledge and thank tremendously our volunteer commissions. Our Planning and Zoning Commission have been very busy creating ordinances that will insure constant and enhanced growth throughout. Our Parks and Recreation Commission have been organizing the 2nd Annual Selma / Schertz 5k Run / Walk, being held on January 21st at the Bluebonnet Palace for Operation Comfort (a non-profit organization designed to aid wounded serviceman throughout the San Antonio area). Our race coordinators are Selma Physical Therapy, located in the Forum. Along with our staff, the Parks and Recreation Commission have also been working on adding additional playground equipment in Davenport Park and a new basketball court at our Selma Stage Stop Park. Working together with our Historical Commission, they planted and decorated a Holiday Tree at the entrance of the Stage Stop that in years to come, will grow strong as our city is.

As your Mayor, I can not express enough gratitude to all of you who donate your free time in helping with the continued ideas for the City of Selma.

Thank you,
Mayor Tom Daly

WELCOME NEW RESIDENTS:

Dennis & Sylvis Anninos - Forest Creek	Ricardo Hernandez – Selma Park Estates
Mellissa Streeter – Kensington Ranch	Jennifer Norfleet – Retama West
Kelly Hurta – Retama West	Shelia O'Conner – Kensington Ranch
Simona Nava – Retama Springs	Timothy & Mallory Tesch – Retama West
Gary Odell – Kensington Ranch	Richard Brady – Kensington Ranch
Mary Griffin – Kensington Ranch	Roberto Araujo – Forest Creek
Gabriel & Heather Muller – Retama Springs	

EDWARDS AQUIFER MANAGEMENT FEES – As we mentioned in the previous newsletter the Edwards (above our and many other municipal objections) are going to raise our rates. The first increase will go into effect on January 1st. They have

raised their fee to us by 21% to \$47/acre foot of water that Selma owns. Selma owns more than 1,100 acre feet of Edwards Water Rights. Edwards's officials say they must have this raise to cover their "in-house" operational costs. This will not be passed on to you at this time. The second increase is the most onerous. In December the Edwards Board met to determine the percent of change and effective date that they must raise the management fee to comply with the Endangered Species Act. This Act specifically requires protection of Texas Wild Life, San Marcos Salamander and the Snail Darter. In order to accumulate the estimated costs of this protection plan, the Edwards must have \$20,000,000 a year for the next 15 to 20 years. That could mean an increase over the next 21% raise to \$47/acre foot, up to and including, an additional \$90/acre foot! The Board has yet to set the final amount of increase; we will keep you informed and give you at least 30 days notice prior to the increase on appearing on your water bill.

QUALITY ORGANIC – The landscape supply company located on Lookout Road has experienced some odor issues in the recent past. At the request of Quality Organic and in a spirit of cooperation between the City and the owner, they ask that if any citizen experiences a problem, please call the owner, Todd W. Chism or Steve McLaughlin @ 651-0200. Please keep your Code Enforcement Officer Van Adams apprised of any problems by calling him @ 651-7862. Working together, we can eliminate any future issues with foul odors.

SEWER AVERAGING – During the period November 15, 2011 through February 15, 2012 your water usage will determine your charge for sewer service in the coming year. We use the winter months for "sewer averaging" to insure that landscape watering is not included for this charge.

SOLID WASTE FEES – At the July 2011 Council Meeting, Council approved new solid waste rates that take effect on January 1, 2012. These new rates will be reflected in your February 2012 Utility Bill. Monthly residential rates will increase by \$1.00 (to \$9.19 per month) and commercial rates will increase by 2.75%. These rates are paramount to maintaining the quality of service that Bexar Waste has continually delivered upon. Selma's solid waste rates can still claim that they are the lowest in the region!

RESIDENTIAL ALARM PERMITS – Don't forget, all Residential Alarm Permits expired on December 31st. The amount due is \$5.00 for the year. You may mail your permit payment to Selma Police Department, Attn: Records, 9375 Corporate Drive, Selma, TX 78154. Payments are accepted at the Police Department between the hours of 8:00-5:00 Monday thru Friday. If there are changes to the data on the original application you will be asked to fill out a new application for also available at the Police Department. Should questions arise, please call 651-5368.

EMERGENCY CONTACT PHONE NUMBERS – As most of you are aware, Selma has a call back (some call it Reverse 911) system that is utilized to inform neighborhoods or the entire City should some natural disaster or emergency occur. Your number is not shared with any other agency or data base. If you have changed phone numbers or switched to only cell service since you signed for utility service, we ask that you call Mary Lou at 651-7807 and update your phone contact information.

WE ARE NOW IN “STAGE I” WATER RESTRICTIONS – Though Selma is not totally reliant on the Edwards Aquifer for our only drinking water, we continue to ask that all residents take a “common sense” approach to water consumption. Together, we can get through this drought.

REQUIREMENTS FOR RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP – Code Enforcement has experienced a marked increase in pets “escaping” from their owner’s care. As a reminder, Selma has several ordinances for pet ownership; Section 14-3 of the Code tells residence that they have 30 days after acquiring a pet to register that animal with the City and to obtain a City License. Section 14-82 of the Code requires pets to be vaccinated against rabies and a certificate from the veterinarian must be on file at the time the pet is licensed. Section 14-83 of the Code prohibits the pet from roaming freely within the City Limits. Should the City come into possession of your pet and that pet IS registered and a vaccination record IS on file you may reclaim your pet from our impound facility with NO impoundment fee being charged to the owner. If your pet IS NOT registered with the City and the owner IS able to provide a current documentation of rabies vaccination the owner WILL pay impoundment fees and the fee to register the animal prior to it being released. If the owner CANNOT provide proof of vaccination and the animal IS NOT registered with the City the owner WILL be charged an impound fee, issued a citation for violation of City Ordinance and charged appropriate fees for non-registration, non-vaccination and for being in violation of the Ordinance(s).

These actions are not punitive but rather a manner and means to keep the residents and their pet’s safe in the City of Selma. Please help us to help you.

PAY YOUR UTILITY BILLS ONLINE – Your City has our online bill paying up to speed and operational. If you wish to pay your utility bills on line please go to the City’s Website and follow the instructions for this new customer service feature.

UTILITY PAYMENTS – In December we had 40 plus residents that lost their water service due to no payment. That was with giving folks an extra five days to pay the bill! Utility payments are due on the 15th of each month. If the 15th falls on a weekend or holiday, payments will be posted on the next business day. Payments received after 8:00 A.M. on the 2nd business day after the due date are subject to a 10% late charge (of

your total bill). Payment must be received within 10 days of the due date. Payments received after this 10 day period will result in termination of service. A reconnection fee of \$30.00 will be required along with the initial bill amount plus the 10% late fee. The City provides several payment options to avoid additional costs, automatic draft on the 15th of the month from your checking account, on-line payment through the City's website and a 24 hour a day drop box behind city hall. Please note, customers who utilize bank on-line payment services, please schedule the payment to arrive BEFORE late fees are assessed or service is terminated. The City and the employees do not want to terminate anyone's service. PLEASE help us to help you and pay your utility bill on time!

CHIPPER SERVICE is provided to residents free of charge. To schedule the City crew and chipper please call 651-6661, ext 7827. As a reminder, chipper service is provided for the residents of the City of Selma only. This service IS NOT for professional landscaping services and then called for the City to come chip the contractor produced waste. This is not what this chipper service was intended to support. When professional landscape contracts are entered into by the residents, have the removal of the contractor generated waste included in the contract.

STREET SWEEPER SERVICE – The City's street sweeper will be following this monthly route schedule in our subdivisions:

Olympia & Forrest Creek – First Week of the Month

Selma Park Estates & Chelsea Crossing – Week Two

Retama Ridge, Retama West & Retama Springs – Week Three

Live Oak Hills & Kennsington Ranch – Week Four

During business hours on the week of street sweeping your neighborhood, it would be greatly appreciated if you park your vehicles off the street. This will enable us to do a better job in your neighborhood.

AFTER HOURS MINOR EMERGENCIES – The number to call on weekends, holidays and after normal business hours for City Offices is Live Oak Dispatch at 653-0033. Any major emergency should be reported through the 911 system. By minor emergency we mean water main breaks, water pressure issues, vicious dogs or downed tree limb in the right-of-way. Live Oak Dispatch will then get the on call Public Works Employee to respond.

Recap of the Selma City Council Meeting of January 12, 2011

Citizens to be Heard:

Presented a check in the amount of \$5,009.12 to the Guadalupe County Family Violence Center. These funds were raised at the Annual Holiday Party by City Officials and the

City Staff.

Presented a proclamation in honor of the retirement of Police Captain Albert Zuniga.

Presented a Five Year Service Plaque to Police Corporal John Stricklin

Citizens to be Heard: Mr. Richard Trevino, Base Engineer for Randolph Air Force, spoke to the recent rezoning of land to residential use that lies within the Air Installation and Compatibility Use Zone. Mr. Trevino states that Randolph wished to continue as a “good neighbor” to development while expressing concern that encroachment would not limit mission accomplishment at the base. Mr. Trevino pledged his staff’s cooperation in working with the City to the mutual benefit of Selma and Randolph AFB.

- Approved the Minutes of the December 8, 2011 Council Meeting.
- Conditionally accepted the conveyance of a lot in Selma Park Estates from the Stroud Family.
- Approved the Memorandum of Understanding between the Cibolo Valley Local Government Corporation to provide Non-Edwards Aquifer water for the City of Selma and other local municipalities.

CITY OFFICES BE CLOSED

JANUARY 16TH FOR MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

Copies of all Ordinances are maintained on the City Website

**NEXT REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING: February 9, 2012 at 6:30
P.M.**