

# *Blue Lake News*

*Winter, 2009-2010*

*A joint publication of BLPOA and LCMUD #1*

## **TENNIS CLUB MEMBERSHIP**

The Tennis Club in Blue Lake is continuing to increase membership and is a fun and economical way to enjoy our beautiful tennis courts.

An Annual **Family membership** is only \$50.00, per year.

**Individual memberships** are only \$25.00 annually.

**Non-membership fee** is \$5.00 for 90 minutes of play, per court.

Detailed rules for use of the tennis courts are available at the Golf Clubhouse. The Golf Club will collect the tennis court fees, including annual memberships.

## **BLUE LAKE/DEER HAVEN LADIES' SPRING LUNCHEON**

The Blue Lake/Deer Haven Ladies' Spring Luncheon will be in May. The date and place have not been set as of today. Please remember that all ladies of these two neighborhoods are invited. Ask your neighbors who are not permanent residents to come. We are all looking forward to this delightful lunch and good visits. Look for more information in the coming months.

## **BUILDING PERMITS**

Several homes within the subdivision are being torn down and replaced with new homes; as well as several homes that are being re-modeled.

The Llano County MUD # 1 and the Blue Lake POA reminds all Blue Lake residents that a building permit is required for most work done on your property.

There are several types of permits available. If you are planning on doing any re-modeling or improvements to your property, please contact the MUD office to inquire about the building permit process.

The new building permit information is available on our web site at [www.bluelaketx.org](http://www.bluelaketx.org)

## **AUTOMATIC DEBITS FOR PAYMENT OF WATER AND SEWER BILLS**

A program offered by the MUD to its customers is to provide for automatic debits (ACH Debit Program) in payment of water, garbage and sewer bills has been in effect for over two years.

Over 30% of our customers have already authorized this program for payment of their utility bills. If you are interested, please call the MUD office at 598-5460.

Two separate debits will be charged; one for water and garbage and the other for sewer.

### **PETS ON LEASHES**

Llano County's Animal Control Ordinance **requires that pets be leashed in public areas**. That means ANYTIME they are out of your yard... Therefore, you are requested to keep your pet(s) on a leash (controlled restraint) while they are with you while in the parks or on the roadways.

We have experienced MANY violations of the Animal Control Ordinance, especially in the area parks. Signs at the POA parks are posted to help remind you of the need to keep your pets leashed and to **pick up after your pets**. Please obey this Llano County law and help keep your neighbors safe.

### **NEW PROPERTY OWNERS**

We have a couple of new property owners in Blue Lake Estates. The Llano County MUD # 1 and the Blue Lake POA wishes them a warm welcome! Please help our new neighbors feel welcome:

**Faith Betherum**- 3210 Golf Course Drive

**Craig Clark**- 207 Beaver Circle

**Richard & Ann Finlayson, Sr.**- 2912 Blue Lake drive

**James & Kimberly Srp**- 106 Blue Mountain Trail

**Ray & Melanie Whitman**- 3504 Packsaddle Dr.

**WELCOME** to Blue Lake Estates!!

### **NEW MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS CONTRACTOR**

In September, 2009, the Llano County MUD # 1 signed an M & O contract with our new contractors for water and wastewater operations. The new contractor is Professional General Management Services, Inc. (P.G.M.S.) from Dripping Springs, TX.

PGMS employees, Tim Young and Jeff Stuewe come to us with several years of experience. Between the two of them, they maintain the water plant, the lift stations and respond to all the grinder calls.

Because we have a new M & O contractor, there are some changes that our residents need to be aware of...

If your grinder alarm sounds after hours, please turn off all water sources and wait a few minutes before calling for service. This will give the grinder pump time to “catch up” if it’s a hi-level alarm, before calling the technicians.

Also, check your power source to ensure that you have electricity to the grinder pump before calling for service.

As the cost for service calls has gone up, the service calls cost more of YOUR dollars. So, if the result of your service call is your responsibility, you will be billed at a higher rate than previously charged for service calls on a “work order reimbursement”.

If your reason for calling the service technicians can wait until the morning (so as not to have an after-hours call), please limit your use of water and wastewater until the morning, then call the LCMUD # 1 office for service. We will then call the technicians and dispatch them to your home.

**If you need service during the normal operating hours of the MUD, please call (830) 598-5460.**

**If you need service outside of the normal business hours, please call P.G.M.S. at (866) 643-3472 (toll-free).**

### **TAX TIME AGAIN...!**

Please be aware that your Llano County MUD # 1 tax statements were mailed in October, 2009.

Taxes that remain unpaid after January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010, will be assessed penalty and interest, in accordance with Texas State Law.

### **“ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY” CLEAN UP**

As suggested by TXDOT, those who participate in the “Adopt-a-Highway roadside clean-up program, should strive to do so on a quarterly basis, or as required. Since the Blue Lake POA began its’ involvement in this worthwhile effort last year, by “adopting” Ranch Road 2831, two clean-ups have taken place. The first clean-up, last spring, generated 46 X-large bags of trash, plus a number of over-sized projects (tree limbs, lumber, deer carcasses, etc.) that had to be trailer hauled. The second clean-up, later in the summer, netted 27 X-large bags of trash and far fewer of the over-sized items- a significant reduction from previous.

The next clean-up days will likely be sometime in February, depending on weather conditions. Once determined, the date/time/details will be posted at the LCMUD # 1 office; at the Blue Lake Golf clubhouse; by e-mail and passed on by word. Participation in the past has been excellent and a big “thanks” goes out to those who were there to make it happen. Want to have a little “fun in the sun?”, then come on out and join us for the next RR 2831 soiree.

**IMPORTANT 2010 ELECTION DATES:**

February 1, 2010 – Last Day to Register to Vote

**February 5, 2010- First Day to file for a place on the LCMUD # 1 Board**

February 16, 2010 – First Day of Early Voting

February 23, 2010 – Last Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail (Received, not Postmarked)

February 26, 2010 - Last Day of Early Voting

**March 2, 2010** - Primary Election for Republican Candidates County, State and US Representative offices

**March 8, 2010- Last Day to file for a place on the LCMUD # 1 Board**

**April 13, 2010** – Primary Runoff Election Date (If Required)

**May 8, 2010 – Llano County Municipal Utility District #1 – Directors Election**

October 4, 2010 – Last Day to Register to Vote

October 18, 2010 - First Day of Early Voting

October 26, 2010 – Last Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail (Received not Postmarked)

**November 2, 2010** – General Election Date

For More Information: <http://www.sos.state.tx.us/> (select Tab – VOTE)

The Llano County MUD # 1 Board of Directors will have three (3) openings on the Board. Those Board members whose terms of service are expiring this year are:

**L.D. “Red” Stewart  
Jarrett Bates  
Emory Garlick**

Those Board members whose terms are still ongoing are:

**Jeff Pruett  
Bill Stevens**

**LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE UPDATE JANUARY 2010**

The LRPC sub-committees (Communication, Parks and Recreation and the Community Center/Golf Clubhouse) have been working hard to enhance our website. The

enhanced website is up and running, although “still under construction” it contains a lot of new information. Check it out at ([www.bluelaketx.org](http://www.bluelaketx.org))! You will find many new things about Blue Lake and the surrounding communities.

**The Website includes:**

Home Page with

- Tidbits
- Community Events
- Local Weather
- Did You Know ???
- Links to local merchants, restaurants and community services

Check out all of the other pages :

**“Activities, About Us, Emergency #'s, Community Resources, POA Resources, County Resources, and Golf Resources”.**

### **EMAIL UPDATES**

The Blue Lake POA and the LCMUD # 1 have begun to use email as another way to communicate local news to you, the property owner. Please keep your email address up-to-date by advising the LCMUD # 1 of any changes. If you are not currently on our email list, please call the MUD office and we will be happy to include your email address on all future communications.

### **MONTHLY NEWSLETTER UPDATE**

A monthly “Newsletter Update” (which we have not had in the past) is scheduled to begin in February and will be placed on the website. This update will also be sent via the Blue Lake e-mail roster, so if your e-mail address is not current or not listed with the Blue Lake POA, please contact Sally Schwab at [admin@bluelaketx.org](mailto:admin@bluelaketx.org).

### **BLUE LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS SURVEY**

The committees have also been working hard to create a property owners survey which will be sent to all property owners beginning in January. This survey will also be sent electronically to your e-mail address so please be on the lookout for it. It is a short survey which will take less than five minutes to complete. It is very important that we get as many responses as possible representing your best constructive thinking. This survey will help us determine the interests of our property owners and provide the LRPC a “road map” for the future. Planning begins with understanding the needs and interest of the community. Your input is vital!

Long Range Planning Committee

## FIREWORKS REDUCTION

In discussions with staff at the City of Horseshoe Bay leading up to the recent renewal of our firefighting support agreement with them, a request was made by the HSB Fire Chief that we (Blue Lake) make a strong effort to reduce, if not eliminate, the use of fireworks within the community at all times, and not just during the time "burn ban restrictions are in place. The only exception(s) would be for a controlled and sponsored fireworks display, such as is often seen in this and surrounding communities on July 4<sup>th</sup>. Horseshoe bay prohibits all fireworks except under such conditions. This is a safety matter and information regarding it has been disseminated by the POA previously.

We are happy to report that the Blue Lake community has responded well to this fireworks reduction effort and that visible / audible exceptions during the recent holiday period were few. Hopefully, with the continued co-operation of all Blue Lake property owners, this will become a non-issue in the future.

## POA QUARTERLY MEETING

The next Quarterly Meeting of the Blue Lake Estates Property Owner's Association will be Saturday, April 17, 2010 in the Community Room at the Blue Lake Golf Club. The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. All Blue Lake Property Owners are invited to attend.

## GARBAGE DUMPSTERS

The new style of garbage dumpsters are holding up well as far as the amount of **contractor trash** being illegally dumped. The new side doors on the dumpsters only allow for **normal size trash bags** to fit into them.

However, we continue to have problems with Blue Lake residents that insist on placing **large, uncrushed boxes** inside the dumpsters. New television boxes, furniture boxes, computer boxes, etc ALL need to be broken down before being placed in the dumpsters. A lot of our residents cannot put their bagged trash in the dumpsters because of all the uncrushed boxes. Typically, the boxes have the names and addresses of the residents that placed them in the dumpsters on the outside of the box. We prefer NOT to publish those names in the newsletters; however, that will remain an option if our residents continue not to comply with the "dumpster rules." PLEASE crush your large boxes before placing them in the dumpsters so there will be more room for bagged trash. Also, when the dumpsters get so full of large boxes that no more trash can be placed in them, it requires an extra pick-up by our garbage service. That will cause the cost of **your trash service** to increase. Please be considerate of all of our residents and remember the "dumpster rules."

## Blue Lake Golf Board Elections:

The Blue Lake Golf Board is having elections for the board of directors. Four positions are open and four candidates have been nominated. The candidates are Don Webb,

Jim Buckingham, Nettie Blair and Donna Stevens. Since there are no additional candidates, there will be no formal ballots. These candidates' biographies are available on the Blue Lake Golf Club website at [www.bluelakegolf.com](http://www.bluelakegolf.com).

The annual meeting of the Golf Board is January 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am at the Blue Lake Golf Club.