



# Oak Ridge North Community News

## Summer Time

From the Mayor

Hello Neighbors,

It's that time of year again. Summer is around the corner and another school year is almost complete. As the month of May winds down, please remember to honor the men and women who gave their life while serving in the U.S. military. Memorial Day 2023 is on Monday, May 29.

I hope everyone enjoys the summer and activities this time of year brings. Please take advantage of the pool and the parks this summer. Events to look forward to include Father's Day Luau, World's Largest Swim Lesson and Summer Safety Fair. Don't forget the 4th of July Parade and Car Show, and Dive in Movie at the Pool just to mention a few events coming over the summer.

City officials and staff begin reviewing the fiscal budget for next year. At this juncture the city remains financial healthy. Revenues continue to remain stable with an upward trend to this point in time. New business and development remain a top priority for the city to cultivate revenue growth opportunities. Future projects are in the works along with the relocation of the Police Department and Public Works. The Robinson Road project is on target, expected to go out for construction bids in August of 2023.

City staff continues to monitor two key topics that impact our small city. Water and potential statutes coming out of the 88th Texas Legislation Session. Water and sewer discussions are a top priority around the county, and surrounding counties in our area. Decisions made by outside entities regarding water resources impact the city as well as the rest of the county. All come with an economic price for residents. It is important the city remains aware of these issues that may potentially impact our residents. City staff continues to review and track the 88th Texas Legislative Session and current legislative bills. Even though our city is in their backyard, our representatives and senators ignore the fact we are a small city. Potential statutes may have an adverse effect on our small city. It is crucial for a city our size to be aware of any bills that may have a negative impact on our small city.

Our voice is just as important as other cities, large or small. Raising concerns about legislation with our elected officials, representatives, senators, and the governor of Texas is our right as residents of the City of Oak Ridge North, Texas.

As always, it is an honor to serve the City of Oak Ridge North.

God Bless,  
Paul Bond



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# City Tax Revenue

## From the City Manager

Each year around May, City staff begins working on the city's annual budget. The budget runs from October 1 to September 30. It may seem simple, but as you all manage your budget, you look at revenues coming in and determine what expenditures can go out.

The city has two primary sources of revenue: property tax and sales tax. The one residents are most familiar with is property taxes. We understand that every time that tax bill comes in, it's a dreaded day. It seems like every year, every taxing entity goes up. However, the city is proud to say that we have kept the tax rate the same for four years. The amount of money owed from taxes on your home may have increased, but that is due to the value of your home rising from the appraisal district. There have been unprecedented appraisal increases in the last two years.

The city has typically adopted a "no new revenue" tax rate which essentially means we are making the same money in property as the taxes as the year before. Therefore, any increase in the maintenance & operating (M&O) budget must come from somewhere besides property tax. This is where sales tax comes into play. It is a simple fact that most years, sales tax makes

up approximately 75% of revenues for the city. The city would not be able to operate without the amount of sales tax we receive unless property taxes were raised drastically. We have been incredibly fortunate, and with new businesses, we have seen solid sales tax numbers coming out of COVID-19. However, we are also in an unprecedented time of inflation. So therefore, instead of having massive overages on revenues vs. expenditures, we are trending at a slight increase in sales tax revenue month over month. As property tax sits just under one million dollars, the bulk of all M&O items comes from sales tax revenue. For example, the current police department operating budget for fiscal year (FY) 2023 was \$2.2 million. With property tax alone, the city would not be able to maintain just the police department. There are still separate budgets, including streets and roadways, drainage, and all other amenities like pools and parks.

Therefore, please remember when the city discusses new businesses or tries to recruit new ones, it intends to ensure the revenue available for all resident's needs is sustained for future generations. As always, city meetings are always public. There will be additional meetings and public hearings regarding the budget and tax rate, and residents are always welcome to come to the podium for questions or concerns.

# Election Results

## From the City Secretary



This year for the City of Oak Ridge North's General Election the offices of the City Council Places 2, 4 and 5 were up for election. Two of the three offices were unopposed with Place 4 being contested. The candidates for Place 4 were the incumbent, Dawn Candy, and the challenger was Heather Smoot.

Congratulations to incumbents Clint McClaren - Place 2, and Frances Planchard - Place 5 for being re-elected to their respective positions. Also, congratulations to Heather Smoot for successfully becoming the new Place 4 Councilmember.

The Councilmembers will be sworn into office at the Regular Scheduled City Council meeting to be held on May 22, 2023. These positions are held for two-year terms.

Precinct Results Report		Montgomery County, Texas		Unofficial Results		
May 05, 2023 Results		Joint Election		Registered Voters 108 of 14523 = 7.47%		
Run Time: 11:11 PM		5/6/2023		Precinct Reporting 7 of 11 = 63.64%		
Run Date: 5/7/2023		Page 24		182 of 2,441 registered voters = 7.47%		
City of Oak Ridge North Council Member, Place 2 - Vote for one or for none						
Choice	Party	Early Voting	Absentee	Election Day	Total	
Clint McClaren		42 100.00%	1 100.00%	101 100.00%	144 100.00%	
Cast Votes		43 100.00%	1 100.00%	101 100.00%	144 100.00%	
Undervotes		12	1	23	36	
Overvotes		0	0	0	0	
City of Oak Ridge North Council Member, Place 4 - Vote for one or for none						
Choice	Party	Early Voting	Absentee	Election Day	Total	
Heather Smoot		48 90.57%	2 100.00%	33 75.00%	143 79.89%	
Dawn Candy		5 9.43%	0 0.00%	11 25.00%	16 20.11%	
Cast Votes		53 100.00%	2 100.00%	124 100.00%	179 100.00%	
Undervotes		1	0	0	1	
Overvotes		0	0	0	0	
City of Oak Ridge North Council Member, Place 5 - Vote for one or for none						
Choice	Party	Early Voting	Absentee	Election Day	Total	
Frances Planchard		45 100.00%	1 100.00%	103 100.00%	149 100.00%	
Cast Votes		46 100.00%	1 100.00%	106 100.00%	149 100.00%	
Undervotes		3	1	21	25	
Overvotes		0	0	0	0	

# Internet Fraud

## From the Police Department

Internet fraud involves using online services and software with access to the internet to defraud or take advantage of victims. The term “internet fraud” generally covers cybercrime activity that takes place over the internet or on email, including crimes like identity theft, phishing, and other hacking activities designed to scam people out of money. Cyber criminals use a variety of pathways and strategies to commit internet fraud. This includes malicious software, email and instant messaging services to spread malware, spoofed websites that steal user data, and elaborate, wide-reaching phishing scams. Internet fraud can be broken down into several key types of attacks, including:

1. Phishing and spoofing: The use of email and online messaging services to dupe victims into sharing personal data, login credentials, and financial details.

2. Data breach: Stealing confidential, protected, or sensitive data from a secure location and moving it into an untrusted environment. This includes data being stolen from users and organizations.

3. Denial of Service: Interrupting access of traffic to an online service, system, or network to cause malicious intent.

4. Malware: The use of malicious software to damage or disable users’ devices or steal personal and sensitive data.

5. Ransomware: A type of malware that prevents users from accessing critical data then demanding payment in the promise of restoring access. Ransomware is typically delivered via phishing attacks.

Internet users can protect themselves from online fraud by remaining vigi-



lant of the common types of internet fraud listed above. It is vital to never send money to someone met over the internet, never share personal or financial details with individuals who are not legitimate or trustworthy, and never click on hyperlinks or attachments in emails or instant messages. Once targeted, internet users may report online scammer activity to the Federal Trade Commission at [IdentityTheft.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/identity-theft) or [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/report-fraud).

Senior Officer James Kipness, Jr.  
Oak Ridge North Police Department

# New Facilities

## From Public Works



The City will be starting construction this summer on the relocation of the Public Works Department and the Police Department. The project will consist of a new approximately 20,000 square foot Public Works facility. The building will have 2500 square feet of office administration space and approximately 17,500 square feet of shop space.

The new facilities will be located on the East side of the Union Pacific Railroad on land the city purchased in 2017.

The existing Police Department building will be relocated to the property and additional office administration space will be added to the building making it approximately 4500 square feet.

The property will also house the City’s gasoline and diesel fueling stations. The project is set to start Summer 2023 and be completed Summer 2024 pending no major delays in the project.

The project was funded by the sales tax revenue that is collected by the City’s Economic Development Corporation. This means that residents’ property taxes are not being used to fund the facilities.

This project makes way for the future redevelopment of the current Public Works facility and the corner of Robinson and Hanna into the City’s Plaza District. The hope is to have restaurants and shops that generate sales tax and property tax in order to keep the burden off the homeowner with additional revenue generating businesses.

# Properly Dispose Of Your Expired Medication

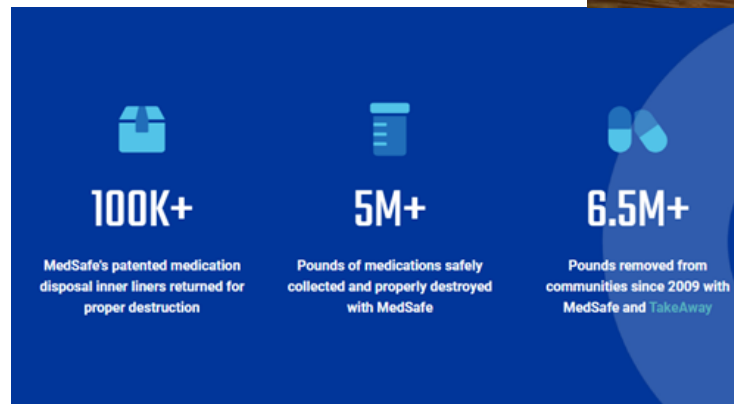
## From the Municipal Court

Most of us are guilty of hoarding expired and unused medication in our homes.... we forget, we get busy, or don't know how to properly dispose of it! When someone in our family gets sick, we open the cabinet and have to rummage to find the right medicine behind a bunch of old bottles that haven't been used in years. The good news is Oak Ridge North has partnered up with MedSafe to allow our residents to dispose of those bottles right here at City Hall, at no cost to you!

You are welcome to drop off controlled substances (Schedules II-V), non-controlled, and over the counter medicines (no illegal drugs allowed, Schedule I). Medsafe uses high temperature incineration as a proper destruction method for expired and unused nonhazardous pharmaceuticals to ensure destruction of all confidential materials.

When you visit City Hall you can find the disposal receptacle near the rest-rooms, please make sure to:

- Leave medications in original packaging/containers when possible
- No liquid containers more than 4 oz (place in plastic baggy before disposing)
- No sharp containers, needles, syringes, batteries, aerosol spray cans, trash, medical devices, chemicals, or other hazardous materials



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# Trash Bin Information

From the Building Department



One of the many services provided on a routine basis in the City of Oak Ridge North, as with most communities, is the weekly trash and recycle pickup. Trash collection is provided by Waste Management, and collection takes place every Monday, along with recycle collection every Wednesday. Trash and recycle must be put out at the curb by 7:00 AM on collection day, or the evening before at the earliest provided the person who places the containers or bins is responsible for the cleanup of garbage or rubbish scattered or spilled prior to collection. Trash and recycling must be in the city provided containers and the lids must close properly. Remember not to block mailboxes or other driveways. Section 66-30 of the City of Oak Ridge North code of ordinances states, when a cart is not left in place for scheduled collection, the trash bin shall not be kept or stored forward of (in front of) a line parallel to the outermost front or side portion of the residence or main building on the lot. In addition to regular trash pickup, bulk waste collection is the first Monday of every month and is limited to a total of 4 cubic yards. For more information please visit the city website at oakridgenorth.com.

A poster for pickleball lessons. The background is a blue pickleball court with a yellow pickleball in the center. The text reads: 'OAK RIDGE NORTH PICKLEBALL LESSONS MARILYN EDGAR PARK TENNIS COURTS'. Below this, there are two yellow boxes with pricing: 'Residents Singles: \$40/Lesson Doubles: \$65/Lesson' and 'Non-Residents Singles: \$50/Lesson Doubles: \$75/Lesson'. At the bottom, there is an orange box with contact information: 'www.oakridgenorth.com', 'Register with Christy Miller', 'cmiller@oakridgenorth.com', and '713-824-0460'. The 'OAK RIDGE NORTH Texas' logo is in the bottom left corner.

An advertisement for Keystone Signature Properties. On the left is a smartphone displaying the KSP logo and 'KEYSTONE SIGNATURE PROPERTIES'. On the right, the text reads: 'www.KeystoneSignature.com', 'Connecting, Serving, and Supporting OAK RIDGE NORTH', a list of services (Selling, Buying, Leasing, Property Management), and contact information: 'Property Management: 832-458-2686', 'Office: 832-764-0156', '27202 Robinson Road'. Social media icons for Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube are shown, along with the handle '@KeystoneSignatureProperties'.

# Business Spotlight

From Economic Development



27700 Interstate 45 Suite B, Oak Ridge North, TX 77385  
Phone: (281) 651-5019  
zlhoutson.com

This quarter's business spotlight features one of Oak Ridge North's newest businesses, Zero Latency. Zero Latency is a free-roam virtual reality gaming arena located in Woodridge Plaza between Federal American Grille and Donna's Home Furnishings. Owner Chalayne Ainsley's original location is in the Katy area. She and her partner decided to expand the business and bring this exciting experience to Oak Ridge North. Zero Latency is a great place for date night, and they even have meeting rooms, which could make for fun employee gatherings.

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## Upcoming Events

**5/19** Pool Pass  
**-20** Discount Days

**5/27** Opening Day  
MEP Pool

**6/3** Safe Sitter Class

**6/17** Father's Day  
Luau

**6/22** Summer Safety  
Fair

**7/4** Annual Parade &  
Classic Car Show

**7/15** Dive in Movie @  
MEP Pool

[www.oakridgenorth.com](http://www.oakridgenorth.com)

City of Oak Ridge North  
Monthly Meeting Schedule

City Council  
2nd & 4th Mondays 7:00 p.m.

Planning and Zoning  
1st Monday 7:00 p.m.

Economic Development Corporation  
3rd Monday 7:00 p.m.

Community Affairs Committee  
4th Tuesday 6:30 p.m.

For complete schedules and agendas visit:  
[oakridgenorth.com](http://oakridgenorth.com)

The public is ALWAYS welcome!

**Mayor: Paul Bond**  
**Mayor Pro Tem: Alex Jones**

**Council Members:**

**Place 1: Rick Moffatt**

**Place 2: Clint McClaren**

**Place 4: Heather Smoot**

**Place 5: Frances Planchard**

**Heather Neeley, City Manager**

**Elizabeth Harrell, City Secretary**

**Tom Libby, Chief of Police**

**Jordan Buras, Director of Economic  
Development**

**Eva McCoin, Director of Finance**

**John Beisert, Director of Community  
Development**

**James Corn, Director of Public Works**



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