

District Four Quarterl-E-News Second Quarter 2007

Ninth Edition

Nancy Tower 337-625-7379

tower520@bellsouth.net



Fundraiser to Keep Council Meetings on Government Channel

It is official – the council voted three-to-two to stop paying for the video taping of the council meetings. Mike Koonce and I voted to continue the taping, while Dru Ellender, Chris Duncan and Stuart Moss voted to discontinue funding the taping.

Each council member cited different reasons for voting to discontinue the taping. Some of the reasons included:

- 1) The council meetings are longer because it is on TV.
- 2) People are using the council meetings for their soap box because it is on TV.
- 3) It costs too much money – we could use the money for other important issues in the city.
- 4) People may not feel comfortable speaking to the council if it is on TV.

I don't think any of these arguments are sound. The council meetings got longer because we had countless post-Rita issues to deal with, not because the meetings are televised. People don't use the meetings for soapbox issues, they come to the meetings to openly discuss problems they're having. The cost is very reasonable at only \$350/month – there is not one issue in the city that should be corrected but hasn't been because of \$350/month (at least no such issue has been brought before the council). People may be less comfortable speaking to the council with the knowledge that it is televised, but if they need to speak they do.

The only way to keep the council meetings on the Government Channel is to raise the money to do it. Many of you have expressed interest in helping and the time is now. Every \$10 donation helps.

On Tuesday, July 17, from 5:30 to 8:00 we'll have a fundraiser at the Lion's Club. Everyone is invited to attend for a donation of any size. We'll have gumbo or jambalaya (or whatever I can get donated) as well as cold drinks, music and short speeches. Additionally, there will be a petition to sign to ask the council to start paying to tape the meetings again – or place the issue on the ballot for the public to vote on. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us. If you can't make the fundraiser, but would like more information about how to donate – please let me know.



Adopt-A-Spot Celebrates One Year Anniversary



One year ago this month the District Four Adopt-A-Spot program was initiated and Susan Settoon Richards took on the duty of Adopt-A-Spot Coordinator. Since that time a group of dedicated volunteers has participated in monthly cleanups of identified right-of-ways along high-traffic roads in the district.

On Saturday, July 7, we celebrated our anniversary by (what else) picking up trash during the monthly cleanup. It's was hot and dirty work, but it sure did look good when we were through with it. We collected 20 + bags of trash and toasted to our success afterwards.

Each month volunteers gather on the first Saturday at Suzanne McCrory's office (3107 Maplewood Drive), at 8:00 a.m. for coffee, assignments, bags, gloves, mosquito spray and water. In two short hours we get the area cleaned up and enjoy some good fellowship.

Community Advisory Panel Celebrates Two Years

The District Four CAP continues to meet on a monthly basis. The CAP has been working on a number of drainage issues; to provide recycling to the citizens of Sulphur; to address non-compliance with ordinances; and learning more about how to apply quality management systems to city government.

In August, the CAP will celebrate two years. At the August meeting we will be inviting interested residents who live in District Four (between Hazel and Beglis, between I-10 and Hwy 90) to join us at the meeting and learn more about the CAP. The agenda will also include a review of accomplishments to date and defining topics for the next twelve months.

The location of the August meeting has yet to be determined. If you would like more information about the CAP, please call me at 842-7849 or e-mail me at tower520@bellsouth.net.

All CAP meetings are open to the public and are usually held on the third Tuesday of the month from 6 – 7:30 p.m. at the Sheriff's Substation.

Committees Being Considered



Are you interested in serving your city, but don't know how? How about serving on a committee or commission?

In the next six months I hope to establish a few committees to help address a number of issues/needs in the city. Each committee will require volunteers with various areas of experience and interests from each district in the city. If you, or someone you know, is interested in serving on any of the committees listed below, please let me know:

- 1) Environmental Committee – to assist with recycling plans, study use of biosolids from wastewater treatment plant to be used for composting, increase anti-litter/beautification efforts and assistance with stormwater permit requirements.
- 2) Charter Review Committee – to review the city charter and make recommendations for updates and clarifications, etc. as needed.
- 3) Land Use Review Committee – We have an engaged and knowledgeable Land Use Commission, but there are still a number of issues that need to be considered regarding the "Zoning Ordinance." A committee could help by making recommendations to the commission. Some of these issues include: updating and incorporating the subdivision ordinance into the Land Use Ordinance, considering historic overlay and park overlay districts for certain areas.

Upcoming Issues

A few of the more interesting issues to be considered in the next two months include: Property millage rates to be set for City of Sulphur in July; Animal Ordinances to address mis-treatment on July and August agendas; Environmental Committee on August agenda; Pit Bull ordinance on August agenda. If you're interested in these issues or others, please feel free to contact me.