

HOMETOWN

NEWS

July - August 2025



pg 23

Restaurant Month

Diner's
.BINGO.

City Directory



CITY SERVICES

CITY OF LIVE OAK MAIN LINE

210.653.9140

Utility Billing

210.653.9141

Animal Control

210.653.1755

Municipal Court

210.945.1799

Permitting, Inspections, Code Enforcement

210.653.1829

Dispatch/Telecommunications

210.653.0033

Police (Non-Emergency)

210.945.1700

Fire Department

210.653.9280

Public Works/Parks & Recreation

210.653.9143

City Administration, Finance, Human Resources

210.653.9142

EXECUTIVE TEAM

City Manager - Anas Garfaoui

210.653.9140 x2286 | agarfaoui@liveoaktx.net

Assistant City Manager - Ron Ruthven

210.653.9140 x2261 | rruthven@liveoaktx.net

City Secretary - Isa Gaytan

210.653.9140 x2213 | igaytan@liveoaktx.net

Economic Development Manager - Donna Lowder

210.653.9140 x2219 | dlowder@liveoaktx.net

Finance Director - Leroy Kowalik

210.653.9140 x2216 | Lkowalik@liveoaktx.net

Interim Fire Chief - Keith Drewry

210-653-9280 x2241 | kdrewry@liveoaktx.net

Police Chief - Michael Fratus

210-945-1701 | mfratus@liveoaktx.net

Public Works Director - Mark Wagster

210.653.9143 x2221 | mwagster@liveoaktx.net

CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Mary M. Dennis

210.792.7168 | yourmayormary@liveoaktx.net

Councilman Angela Green, Place 1

210.355.8562 | agreen@liveoaktx.net

Councilman Bob Tullgren, Place 2

btullgren@liveoaktx.net

Councilwoman Dr. Erin Perez, Place 3

210.343.2175 | eperez@liveoaktx.net

Councilman, Ed Cimics, Place 4

210.844.2773 | ecimics@liveoaktx.net

Councilman Aaron Dahl, Place 5

adahl@liveoaktx.net



EMERGENCY NUMBERS

24 HOUR EMERGENCIES | 911

24 HOUR DISPATCH | 210.653.0033

SUICIDE HOTLINE | 988

UTILITY EMERGENCIES (after hours ONLY) | 210.653.0033

SAWS (leaks/outages) | 210.704.7297

CPS (outages) | 210-353-4357



View online at www.LiveOakTx.net/magazine

Business Hours | 8:00am - 5:00pm



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SEE NEW PHONE NUMBERS LISTED FOR CITY DEPARTMENTS ON PAGE 2!

The City has completed a major upgrade to the city's phone system.

Approved in the FY 2024/2025 budget by Mayor Mary Dennis and the City Council, the new system delivers improved efficiency, reliability, and usability. Tailored to meet the evolving communications needs of a growing city, the system introduces advanced connectivity capabilities.

The enhancement demonstrates Live Oak's dedication to providing top-notch services to its residents. Key features include an intuitive auto-attendant prompt that facilitates seamless call navigation and efficient communication. You will find the new direct phone numbers listed for city departments on page 2 (City Directory).

HELPFUL WEBSITES

EDUCATION

Judson ISD - JudsonISD.org

Northeast ISD - NEISD.org

Northeast Lakeview Collage - Alamo.edu/NLC/

Wayland Baptist University - wbu.edu/campus/san-antonio/

GOVERNMENT

Bexar Appraisal District - BCAD.org

Bexar County - Bexar.org

Bexar County Dispute Resolution Center - Home.Bexar.org/drc/

Emergency Preparedness - dhs.gov/topic/plan-and-prepare-disasters

MISCELLANEOUS

Waste Management - WM.com or 210-653-9142 opt. 2

Randolph Metrocom Rotary Club - RandolphMetrocomRotary.org

Tri-County Chamber of Commerce - TxTriCountyChamber.org

PERSONAL SERVICES

Alamo Area Council of Governments - AACOG.com

Greater Randolph Area Services Program - GRASP211.org

Meals on Wheels - ChristianSeniorServices.org

Randolph Area Christian Assistance Program - RACAP.org





MAYOR MARY M. DENNIS



Fresh Updates to Community Spaces Come Take a Look!

I'm excited to share some great news with you! We've been working hard behind the scenes to refresh and improve several of our most-loved community spaces, and I think you're really going to enjoy what's been done.

Let's start with the Clubhouse! It's receiving a beautiful makeover and scheduled to be completed at the end of August! We've added new flooring, countertops, modern lighting, fresh paint throughout, new a/c system, and new entrance doors. Whether you're hosting a family event or attending a community meeting, the space now feels more comfortable, welcoming, and up-to-date.

Over at the Main City Park, parking just got a whole lot easier and safer. We've upgraded the lots to concrete, offering a longer life expectancy and greater durability. Adding new striping has helped with traffic flow and made some key

accessibility upgrades. These improvements are all about making your visit smoother and more enjoyable.

We also took time to care for a special part of our history; the Cub Scout Youth building. With fresh paint on both the interior and exterior, new flooring, replaced the a/c system, lighting, improved bathrooms, and a few structural touch-ups, it's now a more inviting and functional space for Live Oak civic and youth groups.

If you've been to a City Council meeting lately, you might have noticed the changes at the Council Chambers at City Hall. From new carpeting and a fresh coat of paint to a striking decorative entry wall honoring past and present Mayors of Live Oak, the space now feels more polished, professional, and welcoming for everyone.

If you haven't seen these updates in person yet, I hope you'll stop by soon; maybe during a park stroll, an event at the Clubhouse, or a City Council meeting. These improvements



are just one way we're investing in our future and showing our love for this amazing community.

As always, I'm here to listen and connect. Feel free to reach out to me directly at (210) 792-7168 with any questions, ideas, or concerns. The best is yet to come for Live Oak, the premier place to live, learn, work, and play!



INTERNATIONAL + LIFEGUARD + APPRECIATION DAY July 31



Thank you!

Live Oak Civic Club

Meetings & Events

All events are subject to cancellation

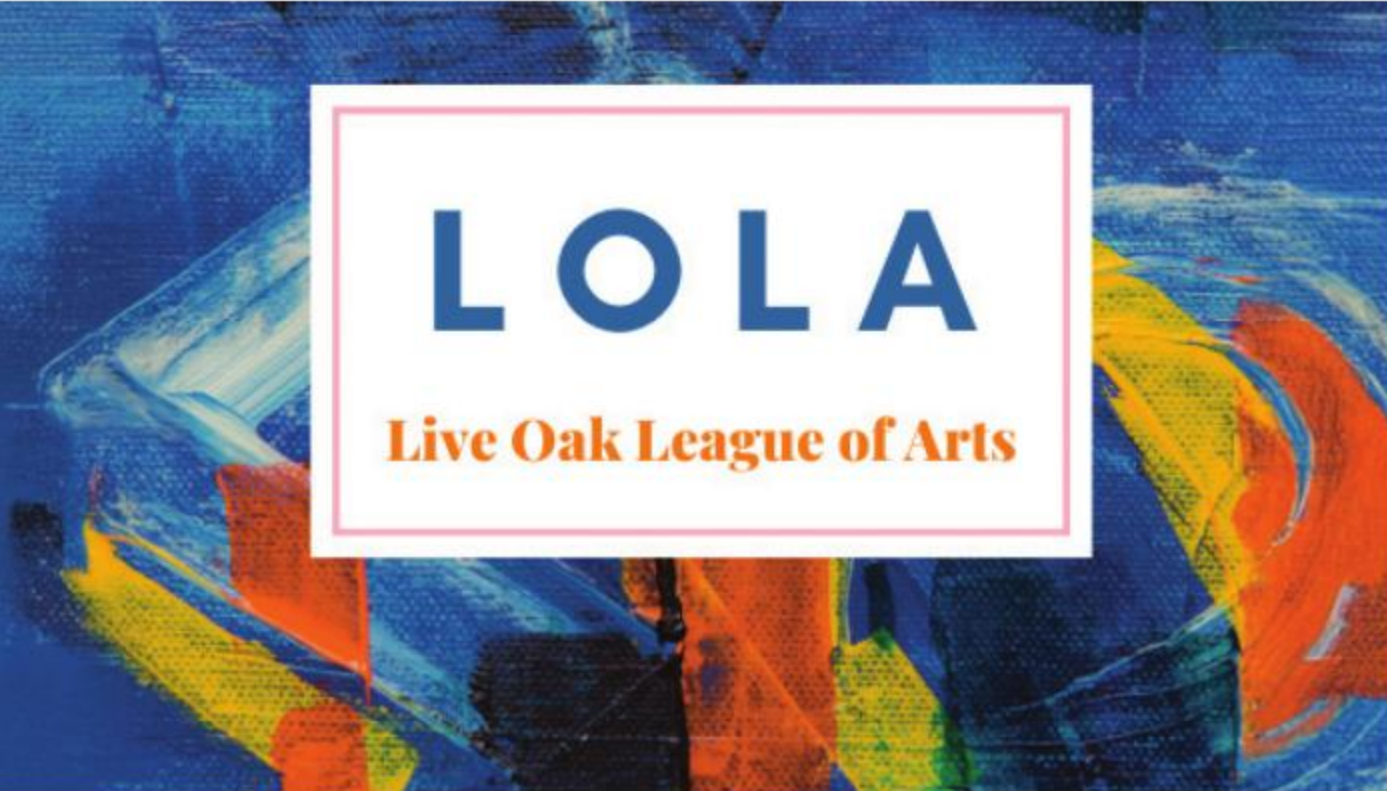
See Pg. 15 for more info on CLUB EVENTS

Find a Club • Get Involved • Stay Active

Local civic clubs are a great way to get involved and meet your neighbors



COMMUNITY ONLINE CALENDAR



LIVE OAK LEAGUE of ARTS

Promoting interest in all art mediums through education and to develop our league's artistic skills while exploring new concepts and utilizing that knowledge to promote the arts within our community. We are a group of amateur artists that enjoy art in all its forms.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT US ON FACEBOOK

Search Live Oak League of Arts
or
liveoakleagueofarts@gmail.com

Scouting America

ADVENTURE AWAITS!

Boys and girls aged 5-17, embark on exciting journeys, learn valuable skills, and make lifelong friends.

We meet at Live Oak First Baptist Church on Monday nights
Monday Nights | 6:30pm Girls & Boys 11-17
Tuesday Nights | 6:30pm | Boys and girls age 5 to 10

JOIN US IN LIVE OAK AND DISCOVER THE THRILL OF SCOUTING!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
Contact Frank Herring at 210-548-2693

SUPPORT & EDUCATION FOR THE LOVE OF ALL ANIMALS

HUMANE SOCIETY of LIVE OAK

MONTHLY EVENING MEETING

2nd Tuesday of the month - 6:30pm
at the Hampton Inn & Suites

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
Brandon at 936-537-6452 | humanesocietyofliveoak@gmail.com

JULY 8th
Monthly Meeting
6:30pm | Hampton Inn & Suites

AUGUST 12th
Monthly Meeting
6:30pm | Hampton Inn & Suites

SENIORS of LIVE OAK

For all Live Oak residents age 50 or older.
Join us for fun and fellowship at any of our events listed including:

Seniors of Live Oak WALK & TALK

- Tuesdays | 8am in Live Oak Park
- Thursdays | 8am in Woodcrest Park

Pets on a leash are welcome

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
Sandy Towery at 210-325-5487

JULY 3rd Sandwich/Salad Night 5:30pm Live Oak Youth Bldg	AUGUST 7th Pizza Night at 6pm Live Oak Youth Bldg Live Oak Pool at 7pm
JULY 14th Board Games 1:00pm Live Oak Youth Bldg	AUGUST 11th Games Day 1:00pm Live Oak Youth Bldg
JULY 16th Lunch 11:30am Meet at Los Arcos 1010 Pat Booker Road	AUGUST 13th Lunch 11:30am Olive Garden Live Oak
JULY 21st Potluck & Bingo 11:30am Live Oak Youth Bldg	AUGUST 18th Potluck & Bingo 11:30am Live Oak Youth Bldg
JULY 28th Bookclub 1:00pm Live Oak Youth Bldg	AUGUST 25th Book Club 1:00pm Live Oak Youth Bldg
JULY 30th Ladies Breakfast 8:30pm Meet at IHOP in Forum	AUGUST 27th Ladies Breakfast 8:30am Williams Confectionery 12107 Toepperwein
JULY 31st Games Day 1:00pm Live Oak Youth Bldg	AUGUST 28th Games Day 1:00pm Live Oak Youth Bldg

GREATER RANDOLPH AREA KIWANIS CLUB

MONTHLY LUNCH MEETING

4th Monday of the month - 12 Noon
at Biff Buzby's

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
210-355-8562 | www.graks.org

JULY 28th
Monthly Meeting

AUGUST 25th
Monthly Meeting

LIVE OAK VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB

MONTHLY AFTERNOON MEETING

3rd Tuesday of each month at 1pm - 3pm
at the Live Oak Youth Bldg.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
Jo Anna Wheeler at 210-655-1036

JULY 15th
Monthly Meeting
1:00pm | Live Oak Youth Bldg.

AUGUST 19th
Monthly Meeting
1:00pm | Live Oak Youth Bldg.

LOCAP

LIVE OAK CITIZENS ASSISTING POLICE

LIVE OAK CITIZENS ASSISTING POLICE

MONTHLY EVENING MEETING

3rd Wednesday at 6:30pm
at the Justice Ctr Training Room

To become a member you must first attend/graduate from Citizens Police Academy

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
locapnews@gmail.com

JULY 16th
Monthly Meeting
6:30pm | Justice Center
Training Room

AUGUST 20th
Monthly Meeting
6:30pm | Justice Center
Training Room



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City of Live Oak

Meetings, Events, & Holidays

JULY 2025

- 04 Independence Day**
City Offices Closed
- 08 Tree Care Board**
6pm in Council Chambers
Parks & Recreation Commission
Meets immediately following the Tree Care Board
City Council Meeting
Cancelled
- 09 15th Annual Business Appreciation Luncheon**
Hilton Garden Inn 11am - 1pm
- 22 Budget Workshop - EDC**
6pm at City Hall
Budget Workshop - City
7pm at City Hall
- 29 Economic Development Meeting**
6pm in Council Chambers
City Council Meeting
7pm in Council Chambers

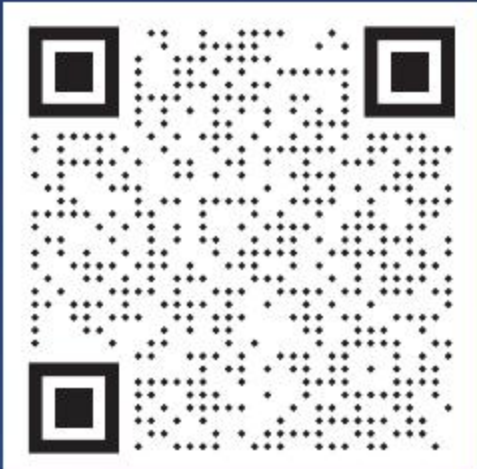
AUGUST 2025

- 07 Purple Heart Day**
- 11 NEISD First Day of School**
- 12 City Council Meeting**
7pm in Council Chambers
- 13 Judson ISD First Day of School**
- 26 Economic Development Meeting**
6pm in Council Chambers
City Council Meeting
7pm in Council Chambers

FUTURE DATES

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| September 1st | Labor Day |
| September 11th | Patriot Day |
| September 22nd | Autumn Begins |
| October 5th-11th | National Fire Prevention Week |
| October 11th | Shindig On Shin Oak |
| October 18th | Pet Pawlooza |
| October 31st | Halloween |

ALL EVENTS ARE
SUBJECT TO
CANCELLATION



COMMUNITY ONLINE
CALENDAR



Trash, Recycling and Brush/Bulk
Collection Calendar located
on page 14.

Questions?
210-653-9142 opt. 1



You can *Livestream all regular
City Council, EDC, Planning & Zoning,
Board of Adjustments, Tree Care
Board, & Parks and Recreation
meetings from our website. The Board
of Adjustment/Planning & Zoning
meetings are held as necessary.
Please call Isa Gaytan at
210.653.9142 with any questions.





Police Memorial
In Gratitude and Remembrance

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all who joined us for the 2025 Peace Officer Memorial Ceremony. Your presence and support helped honor the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

Special appreciation goes to Selma Mayor Tom Daly, the Selma and Live Oak City Council members, Live Oak and Selma City Administrators Anas Garfaoui and Johnny Casias, and all our wonderful residents.

We are deeply grateful to the Judson ISD ROTC, the Great Hearts Choir – The Elite Athenians, retired Police Chief Gary Hopper, the Honorable Judge Susan D. Reed retired Bexar County District



Attorney, LOCAP, the CESO Pipes and Drums Corps, the Live Oak and Selma Honor Guard, and Officer Jacob Esquivel for his moving performance of Taps.

Thank you to Pastor Lester Cooper, Jr., for offering a powerful Benediction that brought both comfort and reflection.

Thank you

Jr. Police Academy
2025

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to our incredible business sponsors, Target, RBFCU, and Interstate Batteries, for their generous support and partnership in making the 2025 Junior Police Academy a resounding success. Your contributions played a vital role in helping us provide a safe, educational, and memorable experience for the youth in our community.

We are also deeply grateful to the dedicated members of LOCAP and the members of the Live Oak Police Department, for their tireless work throughout the week-long course. Your commitment, energy, and enthusiasm made a lasting impact on every participant, and your efforts did not go unnoticed. From planning and logistics to hands-on guidance and mentorship, your hard work was the backbone of this program's success.

Together, with our sponsors and volunteers, we were able to inspire the next generation of leaders and build stronger bonds within our community.



Thank you



You really buttered us up!

A roll-hearted THANK YOU to Texas Roadhouse Live Oak for the surprise and delicious delivery! Your homemade rolls kept us on a roll all day long, soft, warm, and un-bread-lievably good. We're feeling kneadlessly grateful for the carbs and kindness. You've officially risen to hero status in our hearts and stomachs!

Thank you



DEA's National Drug Take Back

On April 26th, the Live Oak Police Department, in partnership with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and members of Live Oak Citizens Assisting Police (LOCAP), hosted a successful Drug Take Back drive-thru event. This initiative provided residents with a safe and convenient way to dispose of unneeded medications.

The event collected 222 pounds of expired or unwanted medications, helping to keep them off the streets and out of the hands of our youngest residents. A huge thank you to the dedicated volunteers and hats off to the Live Oak Police Department and LOCAP for sponsoring such a meaningful and impactful event!

Thank you

If you could not make the event, the Live Oak Fire Department has a SINGLE USE DISPOSAL SYSTEM (SUDS) for prescription drug disposal. The pre-paid take-away SUDS envelopes allow the mailing of unused and expired medications for incineration. The SUDS envelope dispenser is located inside the Live Oak Fire Department lobby at the service counter Monday through Friday during business hours.



LOPD's
Live Oak Lock Up

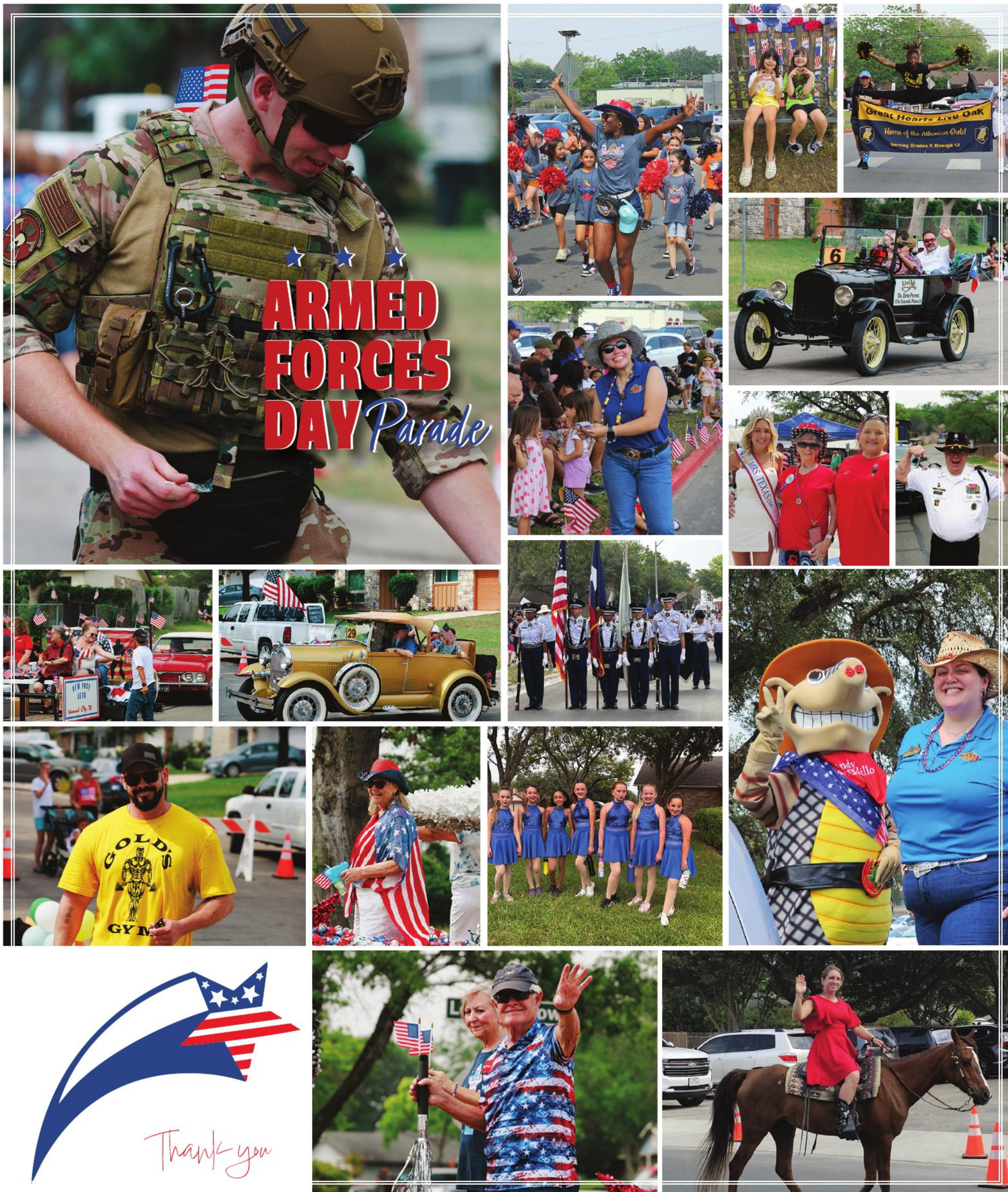
We extend our heartfelt thanks to Home Depot Team members Ronnie Faust and Damian Wagner for their generous donation of wood, paint, screws, and nails to help rebuild the police department's jail events trailer. After years of needing some much-deserved TLC, the trailer received a complete makeover thanks to the collaboration between Home Depot and members of Live Oak Citizens Assisting Police (LOCAP). It also received a new name: "Live Oak Lock Up." Shout out to LOCAP members Sandy Cunningham, Rita Barrera, and John and Patty Ferguson for pouring countless hours of hard work to making this project a reality.

Just in time for the Armed Forces Day Parade, the newly restored Live Oak Lock Up trailer made its debut, and it certainly caught the attention of parade onlookers. Your support made a significant difference, and we're grateful for your commitment to our community.

Thank you



Armed Forces Day Parade: A Story in Every Photo



Jr. Fishing Day 2025

Hooks, Giggles, and One Really Big Fish!

Over 200 little anglers took over Live Oak's Lakeside Park for Jr. Fishing Day, and let's just say the fish weren't ready. There were tangled lines, epic giveaways, wild fish tales, and enough laughs to scare off even the sneakiest catfish. But the best catch of the day? The smiles.

We wrapped things up by celebrating the kiddo who landed the biggest fish of the day—earning instant legend status!

A HUGE SHOUTOUT to our awesome sponsors:

Kiwanis Club, Texas Parks and Wildlife, and the Parks and Recreation Commission. And let's not forget our superstar volunteers, y'all made it look easy. Until next time, keep casting and smiling!



1st Place

Alex Treibel



2nd Place

Gavino Ramirez



3rd Place

Brinden Newberry



22nd Annual LOSO Disc Golf Tournament

The 22nd Annual Live Oak Summer Open (LOSO) Disc Golf Tournament, held May 2–4, was a tremendous success, and it wouldn't have been possible without the incredible support from our community. We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the local business sponsors and the Live Oak Economic Development Corporation whose generosity helped bring this event to life. Your contributions directly supported the players, coordination, and overall experience, and we are deeply grateful.

A huge shout-out also goes to the Alamo Community Disc Club for your tireless work behind the scenes and on the course. Your dedication, planning, and passion for disc golf continue to raise the bar for this tournament each year.

To the City Park Crew, thank you for your time, energy, and enthusiasm. From course prep and cleanup, your efforts ensured the event ran smoothly and was enjoyable and safe for everyone. And of course, to the players, thank you for



showing up with your competitive spirit and love for the game. Whether you were a seasoned competitor or a first-time participant, your presence made the event special.

Together we made the 22nd Annual LOSO Tournament one to remember. We can't wait to see you all again next year!



Community Shred Day Results

Thank You for Making May's Community Shred Day a Success!

May's Community Shred Day was an enormous success, with a mountain of old documents safely and securely shredded! Events like this not only help protect against identity theft but also promote environmental responsibility. It wouldn't have been possible without our amazing community.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to our generous Community Partners at RBFCU for once again hosting this FREE event for the residents of Live Oak and the surrounding areas. Your continued support and commitment to serving the community never goes unnoticed. We didn't also want to extend our sincere thanks to the Live Oak fire chiefs and firefighters, and the Live Oak Police Officers that did the heavy lifting. Their help made the entire process smooth and effortless for all participants. We couldn't have done it without any of them!

Together, we're creating safer and cleaner neighborhoods. Stay tuned for our next community event, and let's keep the momentum going!



We are pleased to announce that the May 10th Community Shred Day event yielded a total of 20,500 pounds of shredded paper, which helped save 174 trees, 31 cubic yards of landfill, and 21 barrels of oil. To date, Live Oak and RBFCU's Community Shred Day has collected 363,786 pounds of paper since May 2011.

A special thanks to Mayor Dennis, Councilman Cimics, Live Oak Fire Department, and Anna Gorjup and Stephanie Hernandez from RBFCU.

Thank You RBFCU



For Your Information

JULY

	A	B	C			
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

AUGUST

	A	B	C			
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

RECYCLE CALENDAR

QUESTIONS?
800.800.5804

BRUSH & BULK PICK UP

RECYCLE DAYS ARE HIGHLIGHTED
And Marked By Letters A - B - C
Route "A" is Wed/Sat trash routes
Route "B" is Mon/Thu trash routes
Route "C" is Tues/Fri trash routes

Professional Networking Begins in Style at Hampton Inn & Suites Live Oak

The Texas Tri-County Chamber of Commerce successfully launched its new Morning Mingle event series with a warm welcome from Hampton Inn & Suites in Live Oak. The event featured a well-organized and inviting atmosphere, thanks to the outstanding hospitality provided by General Manager Brandon Rumfield and his team.

Attendees enjoyed a freshly prepared breakfast while connecting with fellow professionals and community leaders. The Hampton Inn & Suites staff ensured every detail was attended to by offering top-notch service and creating a comfortable setting for meaningful conversations and new connections.

We extend our sincere thanks to Hampton Inn & Suites for their generous hosting and to the Tri-County Chamber for fostering valuable engagement opportunities within our business community.



For Your Information

SOLO

Seniors of Live Oak

SOLO is for all Live Oak residents aged 50 or older.
Join us for fun and fellowship at any of our events
CHECK OUT THE LIVE OAK CIVIC CLUBS EVENTS ON PAGE 7
For more information Please contact Sandra Towery at 210-655-4566

Aspire at Live Oak's Community Appreciation Spotlight

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Aspire at Live Oak for their generous delivery of goodies to our city staff. Acts of kindness like these go a long way in boosting morale and reinforcing the keen sense of community we're proud to foster in our city.

Your support and appreciation remind us why we do what we do. We're grateful for our continued partnership and look forward to working together to keep our city thriving!





Meet Your Neighbor



A Trusted Voice for Live Oak Council Member Ed Cimics, Place 4

Councilmember Ed Cimics proudly represents Place 4 on the Live Oak City Council, bringing a blend of professional expertise and personal dedication to his community. A U.S. Air Force veteran, he carries the same spirit of service, leadership, and integrity into public office. A longtime resident and community advocate, Councilmember Cimics is committed to promoting inclusive growth and enhancing the quality of life for all Live Oak residents.

Ed grew up in Salem, New Hampshire, and left after graduating high school in 1959 to join the United States Air Force. Proudly serving for 20 years, he retired in 1979 as a distinguished veteran. During his final assignment at a remote site in the Philippines, Ed met his future wife, Peggy, who was also serving in the military. They married later that year in San Antonio, where Peggy was stationed. Happily married for 45 years, Ed and Peggy made Live Oak their home in 1982.

Ed began his service to the community by joining the Live Oak Fire Department as a volunteer in 1997, serving until 2010. During this time, he became a certified Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) to better support

the department and the community. Ed and his wife, Peggy, are proud charter members of the Live Oak Lions Club, where they served from 1998 to 2009.

From 1998 to 2010, Ed served on various City boards and commissions before deciding to run for City Council. Today, he continues to represent Place 4 with dedication and pride. He is actively involved with the Texas Municipal League's Elected Officials Training Program and has been recognized as a "Certified Municipal Officer" (CMO), completing at least 72 hours of training annually for the past 15 years. Since 2011, Ed has also been a member of Live Oak Citizens Assisting Police (LOCAP), supporting both the Live Oak Police Department and the broader community.

Q1 - If possible, what advice would you give your younger self?

I would tell my younger self to focus on personal growth, build strong relationships, and maintain financial stability, all while staying true to myself. I would encourage embracing challenges and learning from mistakes. I would remind myself not to fear change, but to welcome innovative ideas and technology. Always stay true to who you are. Don't be afraid to fail. Work hard but remember to take breaks along the way.

Q2 - What led you to run for City Council, and how long have you served?

While serving on several boards and commissions including Planning & Zoning, Economic Development, Board of Adjustment, and volunteering with the Live Oak Fire Department, I still felt I had more to offer to the community I had grown to love. In 2010, I decided to run for City Council and have proudly served for over 15 years.

It is a civic duty to engage and get involved in the decision-making process. By serving the Council, staying involved, and raising your voice on issues that matter to your community, you can truly make a difference.

Q3 - Tell us about your hobbies or what you do in your spare time.

My wife and I enjoy traveling, especially cruising whenever we get the opportunity. We have been on a total of 23 cruises over the past 16 years. We also love visiting cities across Texas on long weekend getaways. I enjoy working in my yard, managing minor repairs around the house, and assisting others in the community with small repairs and other needs. I also stay busy as a member of Live Oak Citizens Assisting Police (LOCAP) and by actively supporting various city events.

Q4 - What advice would you give someone wanting to get involved in local government?

I would encourage anyone interested in running for local government to first get involved in their community. Volunteering to serve on the City boards or commissions is always a great start. The City is always looking for individuals to serve on a board, volunteer at events, or even walk a dog at the animal shelter. You can learn a great deal about your community while also building lasting relationships along the way. The more you learn about your community before running for office, the better prepared you will be to serve effectively once elected to Council.

Q5 - What do you love most about serving the residents of Live Oak?

Being part of a city that looks ahead to the future and strives to continually improve the quality of life for the community of Live Oak and its residents is truly rewarding. A city that inspires and motivates people to work together can achieve remarkable success, and that has always been the long-term goal for our wonderful community.

As a Councilmember, I am someone who does not seek the spotlight. My fellow citizens and residents know that if they have a concern or issue, they can reach out to me, and I will always follow up with an answer. Actions speak louder than words. When I was first elected 15 years ago, I promised myself that I would be a voice for all residents. I am proud to say that I have kept that promise and will continue to serve as long as the citizens want me to.

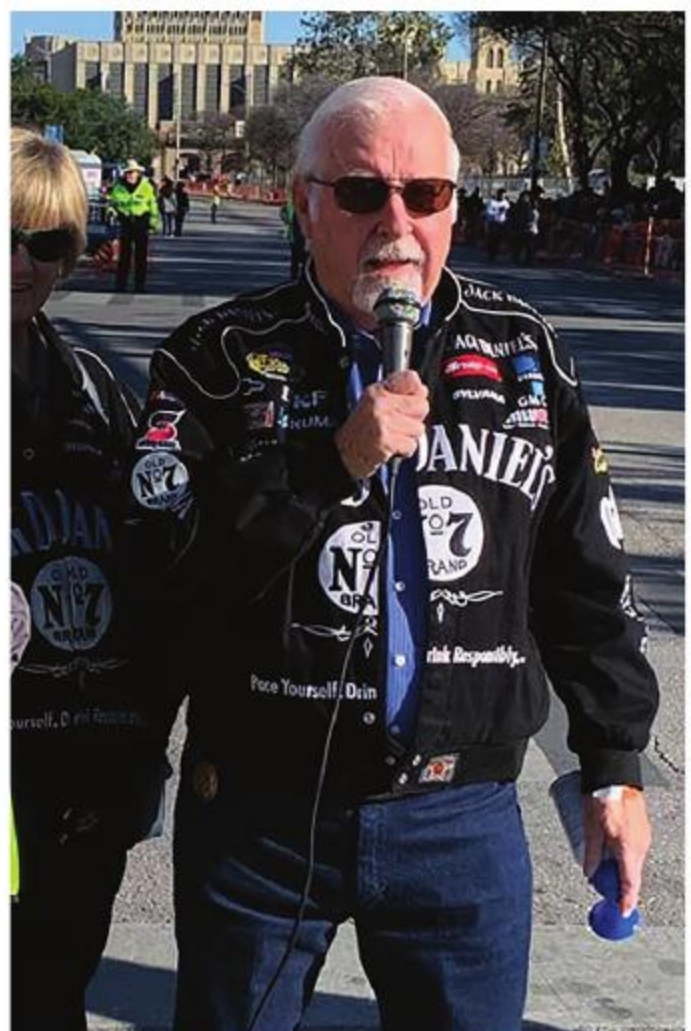
I love this city and am extremely proud to be part of its growth, development, and the many improvements to our infrastructure.

Q6 - What has been the most rewarding moment while serving the premier community of Live Oak?

In all my years of service to the community, there have been countless moments when I felt honored and proud to represent the city and its residents. Whether it was at a meeting, city or community event, council session, ribbon cutting, or grand opening of a new business, each occasion has been special.

However, the most rewarding moment for me personally was being honored as both a veteran and a Councilmember and being selected to raise the United States flag at the grand opening of IKEA on February 13, 2019.

Professionally, completing the Certified Municipal Officer designation and being recognized for the past 15 years of service has given me a profound sense of accomplishment. The program is a rigorous training initiative for city officials dedicated to continuing their professional development.





**SAVE THE
DATE**

**SHINDIG
ON SHIN OAK**

October 11th

4-10pm

**FREE
ADMISSION**



Mark Wagster
Director of Public Works
210-653-9143 ext. 2221
YEARS OF SERVICE:
47 Years



Courtney Weese
Recreation & Special Events Manager
210-653-9143 Opt. 5
YEARS OF SERVICE:
20 Years, 9 months



Jymie J. Perna
Executive Assistant
Public Works
210-653-9143 Opt. 8
YEARS OF SERVICE:
10 Years, 8 months



Kyle Weese
Parks Supervisor
210-653-9143 Opt. 4
YEARS OF SERVICE:
23 Years, 2 months



Scott May
Heavy Equipment Operator
YEARS OF SERVICE:
27 Years, 6 months



Kevin Jacobs
Parks Maintenance Worker
YEARS OF SERVICE:
22 Years, 8 months



Joel Brown
Heavy Equipment Operator, CPO
YEARS OF SERVICE:
11 Years, 9 months



Trevor Garcia
Heavy Equipment Operator
YEARS OF SERVICE:
5 Years, 10 months



Robert Scott
Parks Maintenance Worker, CPO
YEARS OF SERVICE:
9 Years, 5 months



Michael Nolin
Parks Maintenance Worker
YEARS OF SERVICE:
2 Year, 6 months

As summer hits its stride, July brings us one of the most meaningful celebrations of the season, National Parks and Recreation Month! It's a time when communities across the country come together to recognize the incredible contributions of our parks and recreation professionals, the unsung heroes who keep our parks clean, our programs running, and our green spaces thriving. The theme this year is "Build Together, Play Together" and here in Live Oak we certainly strive to do just that. As the **National Recreation and Park Association states:** Together, we're building and maintaining sustainable parks and green spaces for current and future generations. Together, we're building thriving communities focused on health and well-being. Together, we're building high-quality programs and spaces accessible and inclusive for all. Our Parks and Recreation team ensures that trails are safe, playgrounds are maintained, sports leagues are organized, and special events go off without a hitch. Their dedication makes our local parks places for relaxation, recreation, and community connection! For this, we say thank you to these Parks and Recreation professionals for continuing to make Live Oak the Premier Community to live, learn, work, and PLAY!





TruHaven Dental Center
Crafting Smiles, Cultivating Trust

Live Oak residents have a new reason to smile as TruHaven Dental Center officially opens its doors, bringing expert dental care closer to home. Led by the highly skilled Dr. Uzoma Obah, DDS, TruHaven Dental is set to redefine the standard of dental care in the community with its patient-centered approach and commitment to excellence.

The grand opening, celebrated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, marks the beginning of an exciting journey for both Dr. Obah and the residents of Live Oak. Conveniently located at 8344 Pat Booker Road inside the Shops at Live Oak shopping center,

TruHaven Dental offers a full spectrum of high-quality dental services, ensuring that every patient receives personalized and professional care.

"Our goal is to create a welcoming and comfortable environment where every patient feels valued and cared for," says Dr. Obah. "We are excited to be part of the Live Oak community and look forward to helping our patients achieve healthy, beautiful smiles."

TruHaven Dental Center is now accepting new patients. To schedule an appointment, call or text (210) 900-2116. Join us in welcoming Dr. Uzoma Obah and her team to Live Oak as they embark on this mission to bring brighter, healthier smiles to the community.



Restaurant Month *Diner's* **BINGO** *is Back This Summer!*

Back by popular demand, the Diner's Game Card puts a delicious twist on bingo! This interactive, community-loved game encourages residents and visitors to eat locally, earn game stickers by making purchases at participating restaurants, and work toward completing their cards for a chance to win a \$500 gift card to their favorite participating restaurant.

GAME CARD

 MARCO'S PIZZA 8350 Pat Booker Rd Live Oak, TX (210) 809-4455	 Picosito MEXICAN CUISINE 12107 Toepperwein Rd #7 Live Oak, TX (210) 599-9558	 Panera BREAD 8235 Agora Pkwy Ste 115, Live Oak, TX (210) 566-4880	 SUKHUMVIT THAI RESTAURANT 8214 Pat Booker Rd Live Oak, TX (210) 314-3644	 TEXAS ROADHOUSE 13830 I-35 Live Oak, TX (210) 967-4998
 Evelyn's Mexican Restaurant 8141 Pat Booker Rd Live Oak, TX (210) 257-8519	 RESTAURANT 54TH STREET DRAFTHOUSE 8111 Pat Booker Rd Live Oak, TX (210) 657-5400	FREE SPACE	 Williams Confectionery Crafts 12107 Toepperwein Rd #5A Live Oak, TX (210) 967-5200	 THE COOKSHACK 8211 Agora Pkwy #112 Live Oak, TX (210) 888-0444
 TWIN PEAKS 3050 IKEA-RBFCU Pkwy Live Oak, TX (210) 955-9586	FREE SPACE	 Little Caesars 7509 N Loop 1604 E Live Oak, TX (210) 375-5967	IKEA Live Oak 1000 IKEA-RBFCU Pkwy Live Oak, TX (888) 888-4532	 POTBELLY SANDWICH WORKS 8134 Agora Pkwy Ste 300 Live Oak, TX (210) 318-3522

Rules & Regulations:

- One Player's card per person.
- Players must present the game card at the time of the final purchase.
- "Purchase" includes a meal, a drink, or a gift card purchase at participating establishments.
- Player's card can be found inside the Hometown News magazine ONLY.
- Player's card must be completely blacked out for a chance to win.
- All Player's cards must be submitted to City Hall, 8001 Shin Oak Drive, Live Oak, Texas, no later than September 3, 2025, by 5:00 p.m.
- The winner will be randomly selected from the hopper for a chance to win a \$500 gift card to their favorite participating restaurant.
- The winner will be announced on Monday, September 8th.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

PICK A FAVORITE PARTICIPATING RESTAURANT FROM ABOVE: _____

Live Oak TX

edc

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Send or drop off your completed game card at
8001 Shin Oak Drive
Live Oak City Hall
for your chance to win!

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The Premier Community to Live, Learn, Work, & Play.

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www.liveoaktx.net

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V Dental

Your New Home for Healthy Smiles!

We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Brandon Villarreal, DDS and his team at V Dental to our premier city! Dedicated to providing compassionate, high-quality dental care, V Dental is committed to meeting the unique needs of each patient. Whether you are looking for dental implants, Invisalign®, cosmetic dentistry, crowns, or preventative care, V Dental is your new home for healthy, confident smiles.

Conveniently located inside the Gateway Shopping Plaza at 7689 N. Loop 1604 E, Suite 106, V Dental offers a welcoming environment equipped with the latest dental technology to ensure the best care possible for you and your family.

In May, Mayor Dennis had the pleasure of officially welcoming Dr. Villarreal and his team to the community with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, celebrating their commitment to improving the health and wellness of our residents.

V Dental is now a part of our growing business community, and we look forward to the positive impact they will have. Be sure to stop by, meet the team, and see how they can help you achieve your healthiest smile!



Calling Live Oak Businesses

Live Oak businesses are invited to participate in the 2025 12 Days of Christmas Secret Santa giveaway. For more information or to express interest, please contact Myedc@liveoaktx.net.

Together, we can bring holiday cheer to unsuspecting recipients!



Join Us For

the 15th Annual Business Appreciation Luncheon

hosted by the Live Oak Economic Development Corporation

Wednesday, July 9, 2025 from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

At the Hilton Garden Inn & Live Oak Conference Center

8101 Pat Booker Road, Live Oak, Texas 78233

This event is a celebration of our incredible business community and an opportunity to connect, reflect, and look ahead.

This year's luncheon will feature special guest speakers from Alamo NEX and TXDOT, who will provide valuable updates on the ongoing highway construction project and what it means for our community and local economy. In addition to these informative presentations, we will be recognizing key achievements with:

Sponsor Awards

Anniversary Milestones & The 2025 Pillar Awards

So, dust off your boots and hats, mark your calendar and join us as we celebrate the businesses that keep our community moving forward.

We look forward to seeing you there!





Both the Richisons and Savages gave back through events and local support, always welcoming guests with a smile. A major part of their success came from their dedicated team, whose hard work and hospitality made every visit memorable. By the end of their first year, the Live Oak location had become the top performing Marco's Pizza in the nation.

Tom, Maria, Craig, and Dian are grateful for the community that made their dream a reality-proof of what's possible when people come together.

Happy 5th Anniversary, Marco's Pizza Live Oak!

Five Years of Flavor, Family & Community

Celebrating Marco's Pizza Live Oak

In July 2020, during the challenges of the global pandemic, Tom and Maria Richison teamed up with friends Craig and Dian Savage to open a Marco's Pizza in Live Oak, TX. Driven by a love for good food and community, they created a welcoming space where families could gather.

The citizens of Live Oak embraced the pizzeria from day one. With strong support from city offices and enthusiastic locals, Marco's quickly became a community favorite.



Restaurant Month

WIN A \$500 GIFT CARD TO YOUR FAVORITE PARTICIPATING RESTAURANT!



Diner's **BINGO**

is Back This Summer!

SEE PAGE 23 FOR RULES

Hometown News Travels

If you would like to be featured in the Hometown News Travels section of the magazine, just submit a high-resolution photo of you and the Hometown News at your travel location to dlowder@liveoaktx.net. The submittal should include your name and your location.





Keeping Our Waterways Clean

The Importance of Storm Drain Maintenance

Storm drains are a vital part of our city's infrastructure, designed to manage rainwater and prevent flooding. However, these drainage systems can also become conduits for pollution if not properly maintained. In Live Oak, protecting our lakes, wildlife, and natural habitats is a community priority, and ensuring that storm drains remain free of contaminants plays a critical role in this effort.

The Impact of Runoff on Local Wildlife

When rainwater flows across lawns, driveways, and streets, it collects debris, chemicals, and organic matter, eventually making its way into storm drains. Many people don't realize that stormwater runoff is often untreated, meaning whatever enters these drains ultimately flows into our lakes and rivers. Yard waste such as grass clippings, leaves, and fertilizers can create significant problems, leading to excess nutrients in the water that fuel harmful algal blooms. These blooms deplete oxygen levels, threatening fish and other aquatic life. Additionally, pesticides, herbicides, and other chemicals can be toxic to amphibians, birds, and mammals that rely on these water sources.

How to Keep Storm Drains Clean and Wildlife Safe

Live Oak residents can take several simple but impactful steps to ensure storm drains remain clean and protect the environment:

- Dispose of Yard Waste Properly: Instead of blowing leaves and grass clippings into the street, compost them or use them as mulch.
- Minimize Chemical Use: Choose eco-friendly fertilizers and pesticides, and avoid applying them before rain to prevent runoff.
- Pick Up Pet Waste: Pet waste contains harmful bacteria and nutrients that can contaminate waterways.
- Sweep, Don't Hose: When cleaning driveways and sidewalks, use a broom rather than washing debris into storm drains.
- Report Illicit Dumping: If you see someone disposing of chemicals or trash into storm drains, report it to local authorities.

Live Oak's Commitment to Clean Waterways

The City of Live Oak takes its responsibility to protect local ecosystems seriously. Efforts such as routine storm drain maintenance and environmentally friendly landscaping initiatives help preserve our community's lake and natural habitats. The city also encourages residents to participate in community clean-up events, reinforcing the shared commitment to safeguarding Live Oak's rich biodiversity.

By working together, we can ensure that our storm drains remain clean, our lake stays pristine, and our wildlife thrives for generations to come. Every action, no matter how small, contributes to a healthier and more sustainable Live Oak.

The Premier Community to Live, Learn, Work, & Play!



Congratulations MARISELA!

The Live Oak Police Department is proud to welcome Marisela Hernandez as our new Crime Analyst and Crime Victim Advocate. Marisela comes to us from the San Antonio Police Department's Missing Persons Unit, where she investigated active missing persons cases and worked closely with other agencies to gather information and help locate individuals. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Criminology with a minor in Sociology from Texas A&M University-San Antonio.

In her new role, Marisela will support investigations through crime data analysis and provide assistance to victims of crime by connecting them with resources and support services. She is passionate about serving the community and is dedicated to ensuring victims feel heard, supported, and informed. Her experience and compassion will be a great asset to both our police department and the Live Oak community. Please join us in giving her a warm welcome!

The Live Oak Police Department is committed to delivering compassionate, comprehensive support to victims, their

families, and witnesses in the aftermath of a violent crime. Our goal is to help reduce both the immediate and lasting impact of trauma and to ensure those affected are not alone on their path to healing.

Why is a Victim Services Program Needed?

1. To lessen the short- and long-term trauma experienced as a crime victim.
2. Article 56A.203 of the Texas Code on Criminal Procedure mandates.
3. Article 56A.401 of the Texas Code on Criminal Procedure states the primary role is to ensure victims are informed of their rights.
4. Ensure victims get written notice at the initial contact or earliest possible time after initial contact.

Services Provided:

- Crisis intervention
- Safety planning
- Assist in locating shelter
- Assessment and referral to community agencies
- Notification of victim rights
- Explain the criminal justice process
- VINE registration
- Assist with Crime Victims' Compensation
- Assist with protective orders
- Court accompaniment

Type of Crimes:

- Victims of sexual assault, kidnapping, aggravated robbery, or human trafficking.
- Victims who have suffered personal injury from a crime.
- Victims who have lost a loved one to crime.
- Victims who are the guardians of a crime victim.
- Victims of juvenile crime, including property crimes.
- Victims of family violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, or stalking.



How to Receive Services:

To apply for assistance through the program in Live Oak, Texas, victims can contact

Marisela Hernandez
Local Crime Victim Liaison
mhernandez@liveoaktx.net or 210-945-1706.

We're here to help guide victims through the application process & provide ongoing support.



Community Preparedness is Key as Summer Hazards Approach

As the summer months of July and August approach, so do the risk of extreme heat and severe weather in South Texas. These seasonal challenges, ranging from flash floods to power outages, demand our collective attention and proactive planning. With weather patterns becoming increasingly unpredictable, now is the time for residents to prepare, not panic.

Emergency management teams across Bexar County are already taking steps to ensure our community's safety. They are working in close coordination with city officials to monitor evolving weather conditions, test communication systems, and fine-tune emergency response plans. Their readiness is critical, but it's only part of the equation.

Residents of Live Oak also have an essential role to play in local emergency preparedness. Simple steps taken today can make a life-saving difference tomorrow. Review your emergency kit and make sure it includes water, non-perishable food, essential medications, flashlights, and batteries. Have conversations with family members about evacuation routes and how you will stay in touch if separated.

Equally important is staying informed. Signing up for emergency alerts from the City of Live Oak and monitoring trusted weather sources can ensure timely and accurate

updates during a crisis. Preparedness is not just the responsibility of officials; it's a community effort. By working together and staying alert, we can help protect our homes, support one another, and respond more effectively when emergencies arise.

STAY INFORMED

Sign Up for the Connect CTY Telephone Alert System
Don't miss important emergency updates from the City of Live Oak. Sign up for the Connect CTY Telephone Alerting System today!

It's easy: just scan the QR code with your smartphone camera. Click on "Sign Me Up!" and follow the simple instructions or go to <https://liveoakalert.portal.finalsiteconnect.com/Entry>

Stay connected. Stay safe. Stay informed.

Interim Fire Chief | Keith Drewry | PHONE (210) 653-9280 | EMERGENCY 24 Hours | 911



**TEAMWORK,
ACCOUNTABILITY,
INTEGRITY,
LEADERSHIP,
LOYALTY.**

GRILLING 101

7 out of 10
adults in the U.S. have a grill or smoker

Give Your Grill Plenty of Space
27% of home fires started by outdoor grills began in a courtyard, terrace or patio, & 29% started on exterior balcony or open porch.

Watch Out For Flare-Ups
When cooking meat on an open flame, dripping grease can cause flare-ups. Have a plan for eliminating these, starting with closing the lid to deprive the fire of oxygen.

Keep Your Grill Stable
Make sure your grill is on a flat, stable surface. Use a grill pad or splatter mat under grill if cooking on a deck.

Keep Your Grill Clean
Remove grease build-up from the grill grates and drip tray. For charcoal grills, make sure the coals are cold before disposing in a metal container.

Learn Basic Food Safety
Temperatures are less consistent & chances of cross contamination are greater when cooking outdoors. Prepare your food indoors & use a meat thermometer to ensure that your food reaches the correct safe temperature.

64%
of Americans have gas grills- 44% use charcoal

49%
of Americans over age 6 participate in outdoor BBQ gatherings each year

Summer Safety Tips from the Live Oak Fire Department

As the summer months heat up, the Live Oak Fire Department wants to ensure your family stays safe and prepared.

Here are a few important safety tips to keep in mind during the hottest time of the year:

- Grill Safely:**
- Always grill outside, away from your home, deck railings, and overhanging branches.
 - Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill area.
- Fireworks Safety:**
- Leave fireworks to the professionals. Fireworks are not only dangerous but are also prohibited within city limits. Attend public displays and enjoy the show safely.
- Hydrate and Stay Cool:**
- High temperatures can quickly lead to dehydration and heat-related illnesses. Drink plenty of water, wear lightweight clothing, and take breaks in the shade or air-conditioned spaces.
- Prevent Wildfires:**
- If you plan to camp or enjoy a fire pit, ensure the fires are completely extinguished before leaving. Keep a water source nearby and never leave fires unattended.
- Pool Safety:**
- Always supervise children around water and ensure gates are secure. Install safety barriers around pools and know how to perform CPR.
- Check Your Smoke Alarms:**
- Summer is the perfect time to test your smoke alarms and replace batteries if needed. Working smoke alarms save lives.
 - Stay safe, stay cool, and enjoy your summer!

Live Oak Fire Department | Protecting Our Community, One Step at a Time.



Our organization is always looking for volunteers to join our team! Because volunteers work directly with animals, they increase the chances of an animal being adopted. Additionally, volunteers can help increase awareness of the shelter and the animals in the organization. Volunteers help socialize the animals and give the dogs a break from their kennels by walking them more regularly.

Adopt A Pet

Donation Wishlist

Volunteer

amazon
wishlist

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Live Oak thrives because of passionate, community-driven individuals who make a real impact. With over 15,000 residents, Live Oak offers a vibrant environment for families, young professionals, veterans, and retirees, blending urban amenities with suburban charm. We need what makes you unique to help shape our city's future—join us as a volunteer and make a difference today!



WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

- ✓ Volunteer at Police, Animal Control, Parks, Events, Boards and Commissions & More
- ✓ Opportunities for All Ages & Skill Levels
- ✓ Opportunities for Businesses, Churches, Schools & Local Clubs
- ✓ Family Friendly Opportunities
- ✓ Even a few hours can make a HUGE impact!



SCAN HERE!

FOR MORE INFO ON HOW TO VOLUNTEER



MORE INFO
LIVEOAKTX.NET/VOLUNTEER



QUESTIONS? CONTACT US AT
210-653-9140 OR INFO@LIVEOAKTX.NET