# Home Town News

PUBLISHED BIMONTHLY BY LEAPFROG PROMOTIONS



🗼 November/December 2010 🗼





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# CITY OF LIVE OAK **DIRECTORY**

Main Number - (210) 653-9140 Business Hours - 8:15am - 5:00pm Website - www.liveoak.net

#### LIVE OAK CIVIC CENTER

8101 Pat Booker Road Phone: (210) 653-9494 Fax: (210) 653-0158

#### **City Council**

Mayor Mary M. Dennis
yourmayormary@yahoo.com Councilwoman Loretta Kusek, Place #1657-7167
lkusek@sbcglobal.net
Councilman Robert "Bob" Tullgren, Place#2378-6129 btullgren@sbcglobal.net
Councilman Eric Sanchez, Place #3
Councilman Ed Cimics, Place #4844-2773 edcimics@sbcglobal.net
Councilwoman Susan Kirschner, Place #5590-3710 skirschner@satx.rr.com
City Manager
Matthew Smith
Assistant City Manager Scott Wayman653-9140 ext. 261
City Secretary Debby Goza653-9140 ext. 213
Civic Center Director
Jim Battersby
Carol Buttler
Finance Director
Leroy Kowalik
Fire Chief Charles Foster653-9140 ext. 241
Info. Technology Director Jim Nardone
Police Chief
Ron Echols
Public Works DirectorMark Wagster
Services

#### Services

Animal Control Supervisor					
Patrick Russel	653-9140 ext. 228				
Building Official					
Ken Steiner	653-9140 ext. 250				
<b>Building Permits/Inspections</b>					
Donna Lowder	653-9140 ext. 244				
Code Compliance					
John Dalton	653-9140 ext. 245				
Dispatch 24 Hours 653-0033					
Emergency (Police, Fire, EMS) 24 Hours911					
Emergency (Police, Fire, EMS) 2	4 Hours911				
	4 Hours911				
Emergency (Police, Fire, EMS) 2 Emergency Management Gary Woppert					
Emergency Management					
Emergency Management Gary Woppert	653-9140 ext. 379				
Emergency Management Gary Woppert Human Resources	653-9140 ext. 379				
Emergency Management Gary Woppert Human Resources Trudy Whitfield	653-9140 ext. 379 653-9140 ext 201				
Emergency Management Gary Woppert Human Resources Trudy Whitfield Recreation Courtney Weese	653-9140 ext. 379 653-9140 ext 201				
Emergency Management Gary Woppert Human Resources Trudy Whitfield Recreation	653-9140 ext. 379 653-9140 ext 201 653-9140 ext. 235				



The Live Oak Civic Center located near the intersection of Interstate 35 and Loop 1604, is the premier meeting facility in northeast Bexar

County. It is the focal point for hundreds of yearly shows, such as arts and crafts, antiques, computers, various trade shows, along with business seminars and wedding receptions.

For a schedule of upcoming events and rental information, visit the Civic Center section of the City Web Site, or contact staff at the numbers listed above.

#### **OFFICIAL MEETINGS**

City Council Meetings: 2nd and last Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM.

Parks & Recreation Commission Meetings: 1st Monday of each month at 7:00 PM. unless the first Monday is a holiday, then the meeting will be held on the 2nd Monday of the month.

Board of Adjustment Meetings: (held as necessary)

Economic Development Corporation Meetings: (held as necessary)

Planning & Zoning Commission Meetings: (held as necessary)

#### **FUTURE EVENTS**

Low Flow Toilet Program November 1, 2010

Daylight Saving Time Ends November 7, 2010

Arbor Day—Woodcrest Park November 13, 2010

**Concert in the Park** November 13, 2010

Holiday Family Fun December 10, 2010

Ho-Ho-Ho Holidaze Camp for Kids December 18-20, 2010

#### City Holidays—Offices Closed

Veterans Day November 11, 2010 Thanksgiving November 25-26, 2010 Christmas December 24, 2010 New Year's Day December 31, 2010

### City Hall News

Matthew Smith, City Manager



#### Keep Live Oak Beautiful

During the month of September, Live Oak was granted affiliate status with Keep Texas Beautiful. The mission of the parent organization, Keep Texas Beautiful is to educate and engage Texans to take responsibility for improving their community environment. This is done by initiating a statewide network of grassroots litter prevention, waste reduction and beautification programs. To advance in this program, Live Oak will need to organize a local citizen committee or board who will work on programs to enhance the appearance of the City and educate the public on ways to participate in these efforts.

To be qualified, we are looking for individuals with tremendous organizational skills and an interest in the mission of the organization. In many cities, these organizations operate without the specific direction and oversight from the city, so we are looking for a group of individuals to form an executive committee to recruit and organize volunteers. Please see the City's web site for more information and we look forward to the starting of this exciting group.

#### Minute with the Mayor

Mary M. Dennis, Mayor

#### Dear Citizens of Live Oak,

The rustling of the fall leaves and the memories of my mom's turkey and dressing fill my thoughts this time of year. Fall is my favorite season because it gives hope of change (ok, cooler weather) and the prospect of new beginnings. In September many of our citizens were affected by power outages caused by Hurricane Hermine. The staff and I met with representatives from CPS Energy to insure that they were doing all that they could to quickly remedy the situation. With the help from the local Red Cross, emergency efforts were ready to be implemented if necessary. It was heartwarming to see how neighbors came together to help each other during this time. Isn't that what our community is all about?

The Public Works department, along with the Parks and Recreation Commission hosted our first movie in the park. It was a huge success with over 500 residents and neighbors enjoying a beautiful night and the Disney film **Over the Hedge.** The City Wide Garage Sale was a big hit with residents wanting to clean out their garages and making some money doing it. Hopefully this will be an annual event.

The 2010/2011 annual budget was approved by City Council. The bulk of the budget continues to fund the core function of the City and also several items of concern including code enforcement, customer service and internal administrative support. The City Council also adopted a new tax rate to support the approved budget at \$0.476783 per \$100 valuation, after all exemptions are applied. Although it is an increase to the current tax rate, the adopted rate brings in fewer taxes than the City brought in last year on properties taxed in both years. The average taxable homestead of \$88,037 would see a slight increase in taxes by approximately a dollar per month due to commercial properties seeing an even greater decrease in property values than residential.

I am pleased that National night Out was such a success in our community. Many of our neighbors participated with great food and fellowship.

In closing, I would like to say I am humbled by your confidence and look forward to our working together to make Live Oak a great place to work, play and shop.

#### **Public Works** Cathi Piotrowski, Administrative Assistant





next to the mailbox and make sure that it accompanies your child's letter to Santa. Letters without an information sheet or incomplete address make it difficult for Santa to respond. All letters must be turned in no later than December 2nd.

#### Concert in the Park

Live Oak is hosting a Concert in the Park! This exciting new event will take place on November 13th, from 7:00 – 10:00 p.m. at the Live Oak Main City Park. Bring a lawn chair, a blanket or just plan on dancing to the tunes of The Nick Lawrence Band on the football field. Concessions will be available.

#### North Pole Mailbox

The North Pole Mailbox will be in City Hall beginning November 1st. This is an opportunity to get those Christmas wish lists straight to the Jolly OL' Fellow! Parents: please fill out the information sheet located



#### Santa Claus is Coming to Town

Santa Claus is coming to town... on a fire truck!!! Holiday Family Fun Night and the visit with Santa will take place on December 10th. The fun kicks off at 6:00 p.m. at the Live Oak Clubhouse and Santa

will visit with the children from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Professional photos will be made available for purchase, however feel free to bring your own camera. Refreshments provided, so don't miss the festivities.

#### Ho-Ho-Ho Holidaze Camp for Kids

Ho-Ho-Ho Holidaze is back and better than ever. This three day camp for kids will take place on December 18th, 19th and 20th. Children ages 5-12 are welcome to attend the camp; the cost is \$7.00 per day. December 18th will be a night event, full of hot chocolate and winter fun! Please call Courtney Weese at 653-9140 ext. 235 for more information regarding registration and location.

#### **Senior Programs**

Senior exercise is taking place on Fridays, November 12th & 19th and December 3rd & 17th from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. at the youth building. Come try out some exciting new ways to stay fit, as well as socialize with other seniors.

There are also a variety of senior specialty classes, "Homemade Holiday" taking place on Wednesdays, November 3rd, 10th and 17th.

On Tuesday, December 14th, we will venture out to "Holiday in Blue" provided by the USAF Band of the West, an outstanding performance at Laurie Auditorium. Registration begins November 15th. Concert date is subject to change, pending availability.

You must call Courtney Weese at 653-9140 ext. 235 to reserve your spot for the senior specialty classes "Homemade Holiday" and "Holiday in Blue" concert.

#### SOLO

SOLO, short for Seniors of Live Oak is a wonderful new organization that is providing senior citizens with a variety of activities to participate in. This citizen led group meets several times a month and hosts events such as potluck lunches and game days. Seniors enjoy the camaraderie that this group provides and they are rapidly growing in size and activities offered.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the above activities, please contact Courtney Weese, Recreation Coordinator at 653-9140, ext. 235 or cweese@liveoaktx.net.



#### Trout Fishing

In early December, Rainbow Trout will be stocked in the Live Oak Pond by the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. The pond is adjacent to the lake; enter from the City Park Lake access at Lone Shadow/Lazy Forest Dr. Corn kernels, garlic cheese, and salmon eggs make great bait. Appropriate license and bag limits apply. Check marquees for fish arrival dates.



#### Save Money ALL Year

Conserving water during December, January and February will save you money all year on your sewer rate. Visit "www.saws.org" for great water conservation tips.

#### City of Live Oak Receives Grants

The Edwards Aquifer Authority recently awarded two matching fund grants to the Live Oak Water System for community water conservation projects. The grants are \$12,500 for a system-wide leak detec-

tion testing of water lines and \$20,000 for a water efficient toilet replacement program. The program is limited to 400 water efficient toilets. The program is for single family residential customers on the Live Oak Water System with homes built prior to 1992 (other restrictions apply). For more information, an application, and program eligibility guidelines, check the City's web site www. liveoaktx.net "What's New" or call Public Works at 210-653-9140 ext. 234.

#### 3 Types of Stormwater Polution

All types of pollution end up discharging into waterways as sediment, sludge and solids. These can be caught in expensive stormwater treatment filters but the most effective way to reduce this problem is to prevent pollution from entering the stormwater system in the first place.

• Litter, such as cigarette butts, cans, paper or plastic bags (sometimes called gross pollutants)

- Chemical Pollution, such as detergents, oil or fertilizers
- Natural Pollution, such as leaves, garden clippings, animal droppings, sediment and silt

Thank you for doing your part in helping us keep our stormwater channels and streets clean to protect our natural waterways.



#### Holiday Season greetings from your police department!

As a result of the recent graduation of Class 2010 of the Citizen's Police Academy, a new volunteerism initiative was birthed in the City: Live Oak Citizen Assisting Police (CAP). The initiative was developed by Dan Pue, the Assistant Police Chief, who modeled the Live Oak program after the San Antonio Police Department's Volunteer in Police Program.

Chief Pue's CAP program enlists graduates of the Live Oak Citizen's Police Academy alumni and trains them to support the police department in a variety of operations. To name just a few of the operational areas where our CAP volunteers may be found is in the records management area filing or sorting police documents; in the municipal court providing clerical assistance on trial dates and assisting the court clerk with the court docket; in the patrol area responding to missing children or other major scenes to provide an extra set of eyes and ears; and in special operations to help in the rehabilitation of police personnel during lengthy special operations. We believe the CAP volunteers are invaluable resources that are adaptable to most any situation that develops. Chief Pue looks to develop the program further and deploy our CAP volunteers into the community to support other areas of police operations.

If you are interested in being part of our team as a CAP volunteer, please contact Sergeant Jesse Barela at 210-945-1705 or e-mail jbarela@liveoaktx.net.

In closing, if you plan to leave town over the holidays for an extended period of time, please be sure to contact the police department (210-945-1700) to place your home on our vacation house watch list.

The men and women of your police department wish you a safe and happy holiday season!

#### Tropical Storm Hermine!!!

Scott Wayman, Assistant City Manager

Early in the month of September, Hurricane Hermine crossed south Texas providing our region with high wind and rain conditions that we have not seen in several years. A large number of residents suffered damage to trees on their property and there were many drainage channels that were obstructed by falling branches and debris.

This highlights the importance of flood insurance, even if you do not live in or near a special flood hazard area. If flood channels become blocked, they can cause localized flooding even in areas where high water doesn't normally occur. Damage caused from this type of flooding can only be mitigated by Flood Insurance. The purchase of flood insurance is mandatory for federally backed mortgages on buildings located in special flood hazard areas, but could be a valuable option if you live near a flood channel or area where obstructed drainage channels could force water to look for another course.

#### Economic & Community Development

Carol Buttler, Manager of Economic and Community Development

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Arbor Day Celebration in Woodcrest Park



Saturday, November 13, 2010,

is the City of Live Oak's 2nd Annual Arbor Day Celebration. This year we will celebrate Arbor Day in Woodcrest Park by planting a tree in honor of the entire Woodcrest subdivision. An Arbor Day Committee, including three Parks and Recreation Commissioners; two Live Oak Garden Club members;

and staff members from Public Works and Economic Developl ment Departments, are planning several educational and entertaining activities. Not only does the Arbor Day Celebration and proclamation help Live Oak meet one of the requirements to become a Tree City USA community, but also it provides all of you an opportunity to participate in a community event to learn more about trees and plants.



#### City Wide Garage Sale

The first city-wide garage sale, held the last weekend of August in conjunction with the city-wide bulk trash pick up, was very successful. Many homeowners took advantage of this opportunity to make a few dollars on unwanted items. The City will promote future city-wide garage sales each spring and fall to coincide with the semi-annual city-wide bulk trash pick up. Look for dates in March or April 2011.





#### Were You Prepared for Hermine?

Over the Labor Day weekend a depression in the Gulf quickly became Tropical Storm Hermine. It made landfall Monday night and on Tuesday it moved over our City. High winds and heavy rainfall fell most of the day and again overnight. Fortunately little structural damage occurred however many trees were lost along with hundreds of branches, a few fences, and a patio cover or two. The biggest problem was the loss of power around the City. In some cases it was restored within an hour or so, however a few areas were without power for over 24 hours and others for 2 whole days. Needless to say there were outages throughout Bexar County and CPS-Energy worked around the clock making repairs.

Those citizens who were without power for more then a few hours experienced several problems such as lost food in refrigerators and freezers; warm temperatures and no air-conditioning; and possibly some medical equipment issues. Needless

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to say City Hall received numerous telephone calls relating to the outages however the City can only offer limited assistance in facilitating the restoration of electrical power to your home.

In general, power outages are an important issue that citizens should address in their preparedness plan. First of all if your power goes out call CPS-Energy at 353-4357 and report the outage so your address and number are in their computer system. In addition, you may contact City Hall to inform us of the outage, as the City may be unaware of it. When you call you will be asked your name, address, and home phone so we can identify the area. Secondly, keep refrigerators and freezers closed! Depending on the situation it may be wise to secure your home and go to the home of a friend or relative, may be a shopping mall, or some other location where there is power and air-conditioning or heat! One suggestion at this point might be to go to the store and purchase some bags of ice to put in your freezer or refrigerator. This can help keep your food safe.

If there are family members that have special needs then extra preparedness planning may be needed. First of all we ask that you register with the City's Special Needs Program so we know who you are and where you live. In addition it is extremely important that family members who fall into this category are prepared to deal with an emergency such as a power outage. The City cannot provide you with a portable generator and we have limited resources to establish shelters as this is a Red Cross function. Generally speaking a power outage is not a disaster!

n citizens should have a portable radio with extra batteries on hand along with several flashlights or other types of battery powered lights. The use of candles or other devices with an open flame are discouraged. In addition make sure you have a phone that is working. Have a basic phone that plugs into a wall jack or a charged cell phone. Cordless phones usually don't work when there is no power.

If you have any questions relating to this matter, please contact the Office of Emergency Management at 653-9140, Extension 379, on line at gwoppert@liveoaktx.net, or stop by the office located in the fire station during normal business hours.





In an effort to better educate communities throughout the U.S. about smoke alarm recommendations, the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) promoted "Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With!" as the theme for this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, October 3-9, which the City of

Live Oak supported locally. NFPA has been the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week for 88 years.

"Many homes in Live Oak may not have any smoke alarms, not enough smoke alarms, alarms that are too old, or alarms that are not working," says Charles Foster, Fire Chief of the Live Oak Fire Department. "We want residents to understand that working smoke alarms are needed in every home, on every level, outside each sleeping area and inside each bedroom. And, if a smoke alarm is 10 years old or older, it needs to be replaced."

According to Chief Foster, smoke alarms can mean the difference between life and death in a fire. NFPA statistics show that working smoke alarms cut the chance of dying in a fire nearly in half. But they must be working properly to do so. The association's data shows that many homes have smoke alarms that aren't working or maintained properly, usually because of missing, disconnected or dead batteries. Roughly two-thirds of all home fire deaths result from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

The Live Oak Fire Department hosted activities during Fire Prevention Week to promote "Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With!" locally, and to help Live Oak residents understand NFPA's smoke alarm recommendations. Through these educational, family-oriented activities, residents learned more about the power of smoke alarms, newer options for installing and maintaining them properly, and ultimately, how to better protect their loved ones from fire.

The NFPA and the Live Oak Fire Department agree that interconnected smoke alarms offer the best protection; when one sounds, they all do. This is particularly important in larger or multi-story homes, where the sound from distant smoke alarms may be reduced to the point that it may not be loud enough to provide proper warning, especially for sleeping individuals.

"Most people have a sense of complacency about smoke alarms because they already have one in their homes. Fire Prevention Week provides an excellent opportunity to re-educate people about smoke alarms, new technologies and expanded options for installation and maintenance," says Judy Comoletti, division manager for NFPA public education. "Ultimately, we want this year's campaign to serve as a call to action for households nationwide to inspect their homes to ensure that their families have the full smoke alarm protection that's recommended."

The Live Oak Fire Department offers the following tips for making sure smoke alarms are maintained and working properly:

• Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button, and make sure everyone in your home knows their sound.

• If an alarm "chirps," warning the battery is low, replace the battery right away.

 Replace all smoke alarms, including alarms that use 10-year batteries and hard-wired alarms, when they're 10 years old (or sooner) if they do not respond properly when tested.

• Never remove or disable a smoke alarm.

You can visit the Fire Department's Newsletter web page for more information on smoke detectors. To learn more about "Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With!" visit NFPA's Web site at www. www.firepreventionweek.org. If you need assistance with testing your smoke detectors, replacing batteries or installing new battery-operated smoke detectors, please call Assistant Fire Chief, Gerry Galindo to make an appointment at 210-653-9140 ext. 243 or send an E-mail toggalindo@liveoaktx.net. Live Oak Home Town News

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#### North East ISD



North East ISD has completed the upgrade of the telephone system at the North East Education Center building (also known as the Central Office) and is upgrading the campus phone systems throughout the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 school years. This upgrade allows the district to improve service, cut expenses and offer more functionality for employees.

With the new phone system, comes new phone numbers. While the upgraded phone system implementation is occurring, existing main phone numbers will be automatically forwarded to the active new numbers for a year. To ensure the highest customer service, updating your contact lists now is highly recommended.

In addition to the improvements in service and reliability, a cost savings of about \$120,000 per year will be realized by the district.

More information about the campus telephone upgrades will be shared as the implementation takes place.Visit www.neisd. net for an updated central office phone directory.



Northeast Lakeview College President's 1st Thursday Film Series

November 4th: Media & Democracy, Déjà vu: *Meet John Doe* – Frank Capra 1941

**December 2nd:** America's Favorite Holiday Film *It's a Wonderful Life* – Frank Capra 1944

Who: Everyone is invited!

Cost: Free

Where: Performing Arts Center, Northeast Lakeview College

#### New Changes to Brush Pickup

Brush pick up is available on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month depending on what zone your address falls in. The gold zone will be picked up starting the 1st Thursday of each month and the green zone begins on the 3rd Thursday of each month. You do not have to call in to be put on a list, because Waste Management will drive thru each zone looking for brush. If you have any problems or questions, please call Waste Management at 368-5056. To find out what zone you are please call the Utility Dept. at 653-9140 ext. 225 or 226.

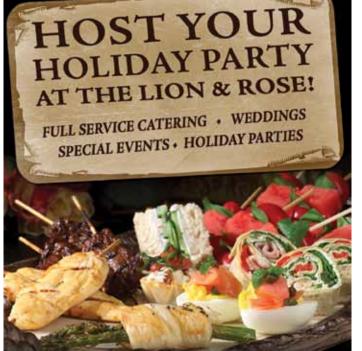


The last day for the Farmers Market is December 14, 2010. great smiles :) start at...



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#### **Holiday Food Drive**

Bring in non-perishable food items to be donated to families in need for the Holiday Season.

In addition, any New Patients that schedule an appointment and bring any non-perishable food item in the month of November will receive a consultation, examination and x-rays and their Personal Report of Findings for \$39.95.

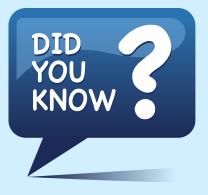
#### 210.599.9570

backtohealth-sa.com

11465 TOEPPERWEIN ROAD | SAN ANTONIO TX 78233







City Ordinance #777 Covers "Garage Sale Signs?"

Posting on utility poles is prohibited. Illumination is prohibited. Size is limited to four (4) square feet in face area. Signs may be erected no earlier than two (2) days prior to the garage sale and must be removed within two (2) days of the garage sale.

A little-known resource funded with tax dollars is available to our small businesses? Through the University of Texas San Antonio (UTSA) Institute for Economic Development, the Small Business Development Center Network offers many types of assistance programs at no charge for small business and entrepreneurs. For more information, visit www. sasbdc.org.

The Live Oak Fire Department will be collecting non-perishable items for their Holiday Food Basket Program beginning November 1st for the entire month? Please call 210-653-9140 for more information.

The Live Oak Police Department's annual Blue Santa Program will be December 20 and 21, 2010? The department will be collecting unwrapped new toys and any cash donations for the program at the police department beginning November 15, 2010. If you should have any questions about this or any other program the department offers, please contact Sergeant Jesse Barela, jbarela@liveoaktx.net or 210-945-1705.

Smoke Detectors should be replaced every 10 years? Batteries should be replaced once a year? "Change your clock – change your battery" is an easy way to remember both!



Live Oak Home Town News



**Holiday** 

Special!!!

See your child's eyes light up as the unwrap a brand new Premier Marital Arts Uniform! Call today to receive 1 free month of lessons and the Uniform is only \$14.95! 920 Pat Booker Road, Universal City

ARTS



Why wait until the new year to set your personal goals? Come to Premier Martial Arts today to get a great workout and learn Street Smart Self-Defense! Don't wait around to become a victim, learn how to protect yourself and your family now! We have several programs to choose from, so come in and see which one is for you! Call today for your free month of lessons and your uniform is only \$14.95! Call NOW!! Call: 210-566-0020 or go online: www.PMAucity.com

# 

menu of 30 items from just <sup>\$</sup>3



#### HOULIHAN'S RESTAURANT + BAR

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938 N. Loop 1604 W. | San Antonio | 210.494.3371 houlihans.com



ALL DAY | EVERY DAY 1/2 off house cocktails, draft beer, long island iced teas, wine by the bottle





#### December 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Hanukkah 1 Begins at Sundown	Hanukkah 2 Deadline for Letters to Santa—City Hall	Senior Exercise <b>3</b> 9:00-10:00 am Youth Building	4
5	Parks & Recreation 6 Meeting 7:00 p.m.	Farmers Market 7 Civic Center 9:00 a.m. -2:00 p.m. Chamber Luncheon @ Olympia Hills 11:30a.m.	8	NE Partnership 9 Lunch @ Olympia Hills 11:30 a.m.	Holiday Family Fun <b>10</b> Night 6:00-8:00 pm Live Oak Clubhouse	11
12	13	Farmers Market 14 Civic Center 9:00 a.m. -2:00 p.m. Senior Trip "Holiday in Blue" (Pending Availability) City Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.	15	16	Senior Exercise 17 9:00-10:00 am Youth Building	Ho-Ho-Ho Holidaze <b>18</b> Camp for Kids
Ho-Ho-Ho Holidaze 19 Camp for Kids	Ho-Ho-Ho Holidaze 20 Camp for Kids	Winter Begins 21	22	23	Christmas 24 City Holiday City Offices Closed	Christmas
Kwanzaa 26	27	City Council 28 Meeting 7:00 p.m.	29	30	New Year's Eve <b>31</b> City Holiday City Offices Closed	Jan 1 New Year's Day

# <u>Community Calendar</u>

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