



THE OAKLEAF

Summer 2026

When you're in jail, a good friend will be trying to bail you out. A best friend will be in the cell next to you saying, 'Well, that was fun'.

- Groucho Marx

2026 Board Members

Eddie Lick *President*
903-603-3928

Rebecca McCarty *Vice Pres.*
(806) 778-8054

David Langford *Secretary*
972-974-5225

Mike Swillo *Treasurer*
832-245-9997

Russell Burch *Director*
903-804-0335

Boyd Foster *Director*
214-533-7954

Kevin Jablonski *Director*
903-681-4269

Oakwood POA Office

8799 Charlya Dr.
Athens, TX 75752
903-677-3924
oakwoodpoa@aol.com

POA Office Mgr.

Robin Foleen

Office Hours:

11:00 am to 2:00 pm
Mon., Wed., Fri. &
2nd Sat. of each month
9:00 am to 2:00 pm

Oakwood Maintenance

Jerry Sumrall

Mon. thru Fri. (hours vary)
Call or text a Board Member
for Burn Pit access after
Maintenance Hours

Water Bill Questions

Lauren - (903) 489-2425
9am - 4pm
oakwoodpoawater@yahoo.com

Editor: Chris Foleen
chfoleen@mvisionstudios.com



Greetings Oakwood Members!

By Eddie Lick, Oakwood POA Board President

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer and have plenty of fun activities to keep you busy and out of the heat. I'm writing my last official letter as a board member and your president. At our upcoming annual member meeting in August, I will retire from the board as it will be my 15th anniversary as a board member, and I feel it is time to let someone else have a little of the fun. Seriously, I have enjoyed my time as a board member and feel good about the progress the board has made during the years I have served. There are so many things that we have accomplished in our fine community, and I hope that I am leaving the board with things a little bit better than when I joined it 15 years ago.

The board has and will continue to be good stewards of your money and focus on the main priorities like our water system, roads, amenities, security, and many other things that make us the best kept secret in East Texas. I truly want to thank all the board members I have worked with now and in the past, as I have learned from you and worked with you to manage and improve on what we all enjoy. It takes a team effort to be successful in any endeavor and the success I feel we have had as a board is a direct reflection of that teamwork.

Oakwood is currently in better shape than I have ever seen with an excellent water system, good roads, secure entry system, enjoyable pool, no debt, and money in the bank to mention a few. I doubt there are many POAs that enjoy all that we have. I moved to Athens 20 years ago and Oakwood is where we have lived from day one and I know I speak for my family when I say that we are so glad we found this place and have no regrets whatsoever in being a part of this community.

I hope you will consider being a board member now or in the future to continue the efforts so many of us have made to make our beautiful community a place we can be proud of and glad to be a part of. I hope to see everyone at our annual meeting in August!

Storage Lot B Expansion Progress

Oakwood has about 140 boat/trailer storage spaces located in three separate storage lots, designated as storage lots A, B, and C. In 2026, almost all the 140 spaces are occupied, and there are new residents who want to take advantage of the convenience of storing boats/trailers here within Oakwood.

What started out as a simple project to remove dead trees and brush to improve San Saba and to eliminate fire hazards, turned into a major undertaking. Once the dead brush was removed from the north end of storage lot B, there was lots of empty space.

To correct erosion problems and to make it possible to park trailers in storage lot B required building a retaining wall at the north end of the newly cleared area. Many thanks to volunteers Craig Blaesing, Dwight Bowers, Mike DeRossett, Virgil Thurmond, and Jack Myers. The volunteers placed 80 bags of 80-pound concrete bags as a base layer, followed by 320 bags of 40-pound concrete bags.

Once the retaining wall was in place, then it was necessary to haul in sand – LOTS of sand – to fill in the area encompassed by the retaining wall. Allison and Justin McAfee's contractor was excavating sand from the McAfee's building site on San Saba and we were able to use that sand.

Many thanks to Allison and Justin McAfee and to their contractor John Young and his crew for all that sand.

Jack Myers used his tractor to level out the sand.

Access to lot B will be only through the gate across from the dumpsters. In addition, the plan is to place tree trunks along the back side of lot B which is not enclosed by the retaining wall. The final steps will be to place space markers, possibly line the spaces, and possibly put some sort of harder surface along the path where people will be driving. There is still quite a bit of work to finalize the storage lot B expansion.

- David Langford



Swimming Pool is Open!

The Oakwood Pool opened Saturday, May 23 and will remain open thru September 7th (Labor Day).

Pool Hours are 10:00 am till 9:00 pm daily. Please contact a board member or the office to obtain the new pool access code.

We ask that you please read the pool and bath house rules and share them with your guests.

If you swim in the lake, please shower with soap and change to a fresh swimsuit before entering the swimming pool. This will prevent a transfer of lake algae to the pool.

2026 Annual Membership Meeting

Saturday August 22nd @ 10am
Oakwood Clubhouse

Oakwood Office Landscaping Upgrade



"We need to do something about these flowerbeds at the office," was the comment from a couple of residents. I agreed, so I contacted the Board about buying azaleas for the office flowerbeds, and the Board agreed to do so. Boyd Foster was going to Tyler to pick up azaleas, so I tagged along. We purchased 21 azalea plants and mulch for the office flowerbeds.

Not wanting to plant all those azaleas by myself, I put out a call for volunteers to help clean out the old flowerbeds and to plant the azaleas. Many thanks to Craig Blaesing, Dwight Bowers, Virgil Thurmond, Jackie Weeks, Boyd Foster, and Chris Foleen for answering the call and for their labor of love planting the azaleas for our Oakwood office.

Azaleas have completed their flowering by May and June, but we are in for quite a brilliant show of azalea blooms come March of 2027. Get your cameras ready. You won't want to miss the show.

- David Langford

Join In Oakwood's Annual July 4th Parade for **America's 250th!**

All Oakwood residents are invited to participate in their patriotically decorated vehicle (golf cart, mule, bicycle, unicycle, car, truck, wagon, or motorcycle) in Oakwood's annual July 4th parade. Line-up begins at 9:30am at the Oakwood Clubhouse, and the parade through the community will start promptly at 10:00am.

If you would rather watch than ride, please line the parade route and cheer on your fellow residents and visitors.

The parade will finish up at the Clubhouse and will be followed by a snack social. Feel free to bring your favorite snack to share with those who attend.

Free hot dogs will be provided through the generosity of Chad and Tammy McKibbin. Many thanks to them for their contribution to the fun!

Restrooms in the Clubhouse will be available.



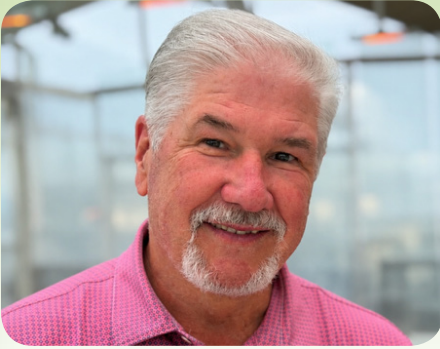
In Loving Memory

We would like to acknowledge the wonderful residents we have lost this past year

Darlene Wolfe-Clark

Jan 21, 1947 – Apr 5, 2026

2026 POA Board of Directors Candidates



Mike Swillo

My name is Mike Swillo, and I'm running for re-election to the Oakwood Board.

Oakwood has been a special place for me for over 20 years, and back in August 2021, my wife and I finally made it our full-time home. We truly love this community. My main goal is to keep giving back by protecting our beautiful, nature-friendly environment, keeping our property values strong, and making Oakwood an even better place to live for everyone.

Since I joined the Board in 2024, I've stayed pretty busy overseeing our office administration, managing the Oakwood Treasury, and leading our Covenants & Restrictions initiatives. Through it all, my focus has always been on transparent communication, smart planning, and being a responsible steward of our community resources.

Before retiring, I spent my career in executive leadership roles with a major oil company, where I had the unique opportunity to work closely with large corporations, law enforcement, and the U.S. Secret Service. I also served on the executive boards of two national organizations, ensuring good governance, teamwork, and making tough strategic decisions.

If re-elected, I promise to represent every property owner fairly. I want to keep improving transparency, fix our infrastructure challenges, protect our investments, and ensure Oakwood remains the welcoming, fun, and vibrant lake community we all love. With over 40 years of experience leading teams and solving complex problems, I'm ready to keep working hard for Oakwood's future. I would be grateful for your consideration and your vote.



Joe Comito

Hello, my name is Joe Comito, and I've been nominated for the 2026 Oakwood Board of Directors.

My wife Rachelle and I moved to Oakwood in 1998, raised our three children here, and recently expanded our house so they can visit with our six grandchildren. Oakwood has been a wonderful part of our family's life for many years, and we truly value the peaceful lifestyle and neighborly spirit this community provides.

After learning metalworking skills in the U.S. Navy, I joined Solar Turbines, a Caterpillar company based in San Diego. My 42-year career included numerous positions, several family moves, and many years of night school, culminating in an MBA from UT Dallas.

For the last 19 years, I served as a Project Manager and primary contact between customers and the company, managing projects on six continents and working daily across many departments. That experience taught me to listen carefully, bring people together, solve problems, and follow through - skills I would bring to the Oakwood Board.

Since retiring in early 2024, I have transitioned from San Diego to living full time in Athens. I enjoy exercising, volunteering, and trying to improve my golf game, which remains a humbling challenge. Most of all, Rachelle and I love the life we enjoy in Oakwood.

I would be honored to serve on the Oakwood Board of Directors, and I respectfully ask for your support



Neil Reynolds

My wife, Misty Reynolds, and I live on Charlya Drive and will celebrate our second wedding anniversary this August. Together, we have four children, and while Sydney is the only one still living at home, I proudly tell everyone I have four kids because I love each of them as if they were my own.

You may have also seen me driving around the neighborhood in my blue golf cart or spending time at the lake with our dog, Oakley. We truly enjoy being part of this community and the friendships we've built here.

Professionally, I bring more than 22 years of industrial maintenance experience. Throughout my career, I have developed strong skills in problem-solving, budgeting, project management, preventive maintenance, and long-term planning. I believe these experiences would be a tremendous asset in helping maintain and improve our neighborhood while being mindful of costs and preserving the value of our community.

I have spent most of my life in Henderson County and firmly believe that Oakwood is one of the best places to live, raise a family, and enjoy retirement. Misty has lived here for 18 years and has witnessed many positive changes and periods of growth within our community. While growth is important, we both believe that what truly makes Oakwood special is its people and the strong sense of community that has always been at its core.

If elected, my goal will be to help preserve the values and traditions that make Oakwood such a wonderful place while working collaboratively to address the needs of our residents today and for years to come.