



THE OAKLEAF

Summer 2025

"We are cups, constantly and quietly being filled. The trick is knowing how to tip ourselves over and let the beautiful stuff out."
—Ray Bradbury

2025 Board Members

Eddie Lick *President*
903-603-3928

Russell Burch *Vice President*
903-804-0335

David Langford *Secretary*
972-974-5225

Mike Swillo *Treasurer*
832-245-9997

Kevin Jablonski *Director*
903-681-4269

Boyd Foster *Director*
214-533-7954

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 you're having a great start to your summer and enjoying all the rain. Your Oakwood Board continues to work hard to provide a safe and enjoyable neighborhood that we all can be proud of. That being said, please adhere to our speed limit and be alert to pedestrians, children playing, deer (lots of deer), cyclists, and other vehicles and golf carts as you maneuver through our streets daily.

Our annual meeting is fast approaching and we will have two board positions up for election this year. Both positions will be vacated and no incumbent will be seeking re-election. We have received four nominations and all seem qualified and should be good board members so be sure to vote by attending the meeting, by absentee ballot, or by assigning your proxy. It is very important that we maintain a strong and committed board to continue the work of maintaining our community to the level we've come accustomed to and enjoy daily.

For the cost of our annual maintenance dues we are blessed with many amenities and our beautiful pool is no exception. Boyd and Jerry and other volunteers have done a great job in maintaining it and this is obvious by the traffic we see there daily. Our recently remodeled Clubhouse has had constant use this past year and is very functional for all types of events. Our boat/trailer areas are being utilized and are near full capacity.

Probably the most important part of Oakwood is the water system we own, and the board has not spared any expense in maintaining it so we can continue to enjoy good clean plentiful water. Our storage tanks appear to provide the capacity needed to get us through the hot dry parts of summer without having any mandatory rationing or limited use. Also, everyone appears to be adhering to our suggested lawn irrigation days so thank you for your efforts.

Please stay safe and enjoy your summer. I look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting in August!

Oakwood Water Supply Report

Reflecting on Progress: Major Upgrades to Oakwood POA's Water Plant

By Russell W. Burch, Vice President, Board of Directors

As I conclude my second term on the Oakwood POA Board of Directors, I'm proud to highlight the critical improvements made to our community's water plant over the past six years—efforts that have significantly enhanced the safety, reliability, and resilience of our water system.

Key upgrades include:

- **New, Larger Well Pump Motor System** to meet peak demand and a backup pump motor system for quick replacement.
- **New 64,000-Gallon Water Supply Tank** to increase storage and improve service during high usage.
- **Refurbished Pressure Supply Tank** to extend equipment life and improve performance.
- **Modernized Electrical System**, including a transition to a more efficient Wye configuration, saving thousands of dollars in energy costs.
- **Installed 150kW Backup Generator**, ensuring continuous water service during power outages.
- **Critical Load Facility Designation** with TVEC for power restoration prioritization.
- **Updated Drought Contingency Plan** to guide water use during dry periods.
- **New Emergency Preparedness Plan (EPP)** to ensure rapid, coordinated responses to emergencies.
- **New Water System Map** to support maintenance, repairs, and future planning.
- **Transition to a New Licensed Water Operator**, providing higher service levels and compliance oversight.

These strategic investments were made with a focus on service reliability, regulatory compliance, and long-term community resilience. I am grateful for the opportunity to have served during this time of meaningful progress and leave the Board confident in the strength of our water infrastructure moving forward.

In Loving Memory

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

Robert Pedrolie

July 18, 1944 - Dec 16, 2024

Dottie Walton

Sept 4, 1934 - Feb 17, 2025

Larry Wortham

July 6, 1952 - Mar 12, 2025



Swimming Pool is Open!

The Oakwood Pool opened Saturday, May 24 and will remain open thru September 1st (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 and change to a fresh swimsuit before entering the swimming pool. This will prevent a transfer of lake algae to the pool.

2025

Annual Membership Meeting

Saturday August 23rd @ 10am
Oakwood Clubhouse

Oakwood Dumpster Etiquette



Our dumpsters are a valuable Oakwood amenity, allowing us to keep our community trash- and garbage-free. However, to make the best use of them it is important that we follow the rules for their use.

The dumpsters are picked up weekly. Please make sure that all the dumpsters' covers are closed, to keep out animal scavengers.

There are restrictions on what can be disposed of in them. You **may not** dispose of the following things in or around the dumpsters:

Tires

Large Items such as suitcases, mattresses, appliances, or furniture

Electronics (smart phones, televisions, radios, computers, etc)

Toxic or hazardous substances such as paint, stain, oils, gasoline, pesticides, acids, etc., including in aerosol cans

Batteries, especially lithium or lead-acid batteries like those used in cars or golf carts

Light bulbs other than incandescent bulbs

You can donate or dispose of these items yourself at an appropriate facility such as the **Athens Thrift Store** (1419 E Tyler St.) or **LaRue Waste Convenience Station** (9769 CR 4719).

If disposing of fireplace or firepit ashes, please make sure that all wood has burned completely to ash and is completely cold.

Note to gardeners: Wood ash can be beneficial in the garden as it provides essential nutrients like potassium and calcium, and helps to raise soil pH.

Finally, please do not feed any feral cats; they tend to frequent the dumpsters, attracted by the food waste.

Thank you for helping to keep Oakwood safe and beautiful.

Join In Oakwood's Annual July 4th Parade

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.

Restrooms in the Clubhouse will be available.



2025 POA Board of Directors Candidates



Gary Penn

Becky and I moved to Oakwood in August 2015 and are full time residents. We have 3 children ranging in ages from 44-50 and 7 grandchildren, all of them living in Texas.

In Dallas, I was a volunteer with Spring Valley Athletic Association (SVAA) for almost 30 years. SVAA is a youth recreational sports organization headquartered in Richardson. Initially, I coached our kids in various sports and later became a League President. LP's are responsible for a grade level sport and includes such duties as team formation, developing schedules posting game results, playoffs, etc. Eventually, I became a Board member and served as President (2 separate terms of 3 years each), Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer (2 consecutive terms of 3 years each).

Becky and I started pickleball in Athens in September 2015 with an introductory clinic at the Cain Center. We began playing indoors there weekly until it closed in December 2016. We then played outdoors at the Cain Center tennis courts. In 2018, we contacted Oakwood neighbors to refurbish the dilapidated Oakwood tennis court to pickleball. Twelve (12) individuals/families contributed \$8500 towards converting to pickleball which is listed as an amenity in the Oakwood web site. We have been playing weekly at our courts since June 2018.

2019 to present – Volunteered to monitor neighborhood violations – established excel spreadsheet to track.

2021 to present – Volunteered to manage Oakwood storage lots – established excel spreadsheet to track.



Mike DeRossett

Professional Experience

1974 – 2006 Manufacturing

I started my career in 1974 as a machinist and advanced to Supervisor, Area Manager, Manufacturing Engineering Manager/ Facilities Manager, Manufacturing Manager and Project Manager. Some of my accomplishments while serving in these roles were:

- Reduced overtime by 3% thru improving material flow
- Increased sales per employee: 12%
- ISO9001 implementation team (passed certification and later the recertification)
- manufacturing line to meet Kayaba Industries process and quality standards
- Implemented preventive maintenance
- Set up a manufacturing facility in Mexico

2006 -2022 Sales

Worked for Iscar Metals as sales and applications for 3 years before being promoted to Regional Technical Specialist. As a RTS, I developed training materials for our sales team, customers and channel partners. I worked with the sales team as well as the customers to improve their processes.

Personal Information

Lynne and I have been married for 51 years and are proud parents of 2 sons and proud grandparents of 6 grandchildren. We can proudly boast we are also great grandparents.

While living in Spanish Shores I served on the POA board for 2 years.

If elected my goal would be to protect our investment and improve our infrastructure.



Rebecca McCarty

I am a 66-year-old retired attorney.

I am married to Cory McCarty, a proud Army veteran who served his country for 31 years. Together, we have a blended family of five children and fifteen grandchildren with twins expected in August. My husband and I love to travel, play golf, garden, and enjoy the lake.

Since retiring, I've remained active and engaged. I purchased and personally remodeled multiple rental homes in Athens, giving me hands-on insight into property maintenance, budgeting, and investment.

I have a strong history of service. I served on the governing session of First Presbyterian Church, where I helped guide long-term decisions affecting the congregation. I've also served on multiple nonprofit and organizational boards throughout my career, and I previously held a position on a POA board in Lubbock, Texas.

I believe in protecting property values, fostering transparency, and ensuring our community remains a welcoming and well-managed place to live.