



THE OAKLEAF

Winter 2025

"Experience is what you get right after you need it."

~ Anonymous

2025 Board Members

Eddie Lick *President*
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Oakwood POA Office

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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

Sarah - 682-401-1890
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Greeting; Oakwood Residents; and Owners

Can you believe it's already 2025? Like the old saying goes, time flies when you're having fun, so I guess I'm having fun and I hope you all are doing the same.

As I'm sure you all have noticed over the last several billing cycles, our maintenance dues have increased a modest 3% and this will continue as we grow and the expense of maintaining the things we love about our fine community does the same. Our water bills have also increased at a nominal rate, but we still have one of the lowest water rates in the state of Texas. I think it's important that I discuss this topic and explain the need for these increases.

We are fortunate to live in a gated community as nice as Oakwood and enjoy the many amenities and pleasures that we are so blessed to have, but the choice to live here comes with a price. Since COVID, we all have seen the inflation it caused in most of the products and services we use on a daily basis. This inflation is factored in the things it takes to manage and operate Oakwood daily. We are blessed with office and maintenance staff that do their job efficiently and are always cognizant of expenses when performing their daily functions, but it costs more today than it did 2-3 years ago.

Your board does a good job in prioritizing the needs of Oakwood and only spending money on items or services that are needed to replace, repair, and maintain the things you have come to expect while living here. We have been able to do this from our cash as we continue to be debt free and maintain

healthy bank balances in our operating, water, and road accounts. It has been several years since we had an assessment (roads) and we hope to continue avoiding this as long as possible.

The modest maintenance dues and water rate increases we've had will help us maintain Oakwood and hopefully build some reserves barring any large unforeseen expenses that could come up at any given time (knock on wood). As board members, we take the fiduciary responsibility of managing your dollars seriously and will continue to do so as long as we are in this position.

As an Oakwood resident or property owner, always feel free to contact any of the board members to ask questions or discuss how your money is spent and offer any suggestions you might have regarding this area. You will continue to see modest annual increases in our dues so we can maintain what we enjoy about our "best kept secret" in East Texas.

Happy 2025 to everyone and I hope the New Year brings you good health, happiness and prosperity throughout the year!

Eddie Lick - *Oakwood Board President*

Oakwood Foxes

The foxes in Oakwood are charming and an indication of the abundance of woodland animals in our lakeside community. But you may wonder whether or not foxes are dangerous animals, particularly if you have small children or pets such as cats or small dogs.

Foxes are fairly timid around humans and, while there have been news reports of foxes attacking people, these instances are incredibly rare. Foxes are inquisitive, curious animals by nature, but they'll do everything they can to avoid human interaction. So, the answer to whether or not foxes are dangerous to humans is yes, but only through the parasites and diseases they may carry.

Foxes are mostly fur and long legs and are not much bigger than a house cat in reality. Their natural diet is wide and includes mice, voles, squirrels, muskrats, rabbits, birds, reptiles, insects, fruit and even grasses and other vegetation. They are wary of other carnivores, which includes your dogs and cats, and will avoid them. They are not a threat to pets or people—as long as we don't artificially feed them and cause them to associate us with food and lose their natural caution around us.

NEVER feed the foxes or try to approach or pet them—this is critically important for their survival



(and your safety, of course). As the saying goes, "a fed mammal is a dead mammal." When we feed wild mammals, (accidentally or on purpose) it causes them to change their natural diet, which could cause nutritional problems.

Keep in mind that seeing foxes in urban and suburban areas is totally normal and nothing to worry about. Seeing them out during the day doesn't mean they're sick. In fact, living alongside foxes is pretty remarkable when you think about it, because most wildlife species decline and disappear when humans develop the land, but red foxes are so adaptable that they've figured out how to thrive with their human neighbors.

In Loving Memory

WE WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE WONDERFUL
RESIDENTS WE HAVE LOST THIS PAST YEAR

Max Odom May 31, 1932 - Sept.14,2024

Bill Pace Dec 1, 1952 - Oct. 2, 2024

Dan G. Bennett Sept 26, 1936 - Oct. 4, 2024

Jay Howard Mar 11, 1953 - Oct. 24, 2024

Robert Pedrolie July 18, 1944 - Dec 16, 2024