

August, 2018-Dear Citizens of the Orchard area:

It's time for an update on "What is happening in Orchard"

First an update on the new pavilion. At our Council meeting in July we made the decision to hold off on construction for the pavilion until first quarter of next year. We already have the funding for phase 1 of the pavilion but we did not get the grant approved from Texas Park & Wildlife for phase 2. If we begin construction this year and spend the current funds, we would lose an opportunity to re-submit again for a grant to Texas Park & Wildlife. They will only match funds we have on hand for the project. We decided to keep the current funds and submit another request for a matching grant then, about a week ago we received notice from Texas Park & Wildlife that if we have not started the pavilion project, they would approve our grant! Looks like they found some additional money and we were the benefactor! They will include it in the 2018 grant and we would be eligible to receive funds in March of 2019. We have a meeting with TPW on August 24th at the Orchard Park. They will need to come out and make sure we have not started the pavilion in order to qualify. It now appears we will be able to complete the full project which will include the bathrooms, stage and concession stands.

Second, the Orchard Jamboree. Since the pavilion will not be completed in time for the 2018 Jamboree the OCIA has decided to have a much smaller event at the Orchard Community Center in November of 2018. The OCIA will be providing information on this event in the next few months. The Jamboree event will be even better and bigger in 2019 once we have completed the pavilion and improvements for parking.

Third, the Orchard EDC is working on improvements to the Orchard Community Center which includes updates to all the bathrooms, painting and removal of the old water fountains. They also have plans to clean and mow the area on Hwy 36 next to the railroad. This will greatly improve the appearance into the Orchard area. I hope everyone has noticed the improvements to our welcome sign in Orchard, this project was completed by Aaron Zook for his Eagle Scout project and he did a fine job.

Last, Code enforcement. While I know this is not an easy task, I am very pleased with the job that our code enforcement officer has done. Our intent is to enforce the ordinances in order to improve the quality & safety for the citizens of Orchard. Our Municipal Court has been active this year and I have been asked to remind everyone that you may be summoned for jury duty.

I am attaching some information about jury duty from the Orchard Municipal Court. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call my cell 832-868-6647 or call any of the council members. We are here to serve you!

I will do my best to keep everyone updated with Orchard news through Newsletters and Facebook

Rod Pavlock -Mayor City of Orchard

As you know the city has a code enforcement officer and we are issuing citations and holding court on a regular basis. As a defendant you have the option for a jury trial.

Jury service is an important civic and community duty. Through service on a jury, a citizen has a direct hand in the administration of justice. The court greatly appreciates citizens who participate in this service.

Qualifications

- To serve as a juror, the following qualifications must be met:
- At least 18 years of age.
- A citizen of the United States;
- A resident of this state and of the county in which I am to serve as a juror;
- Qualified to serve under the Constitution and laws to vote in this county. (Note: You do not have to be registered to vote to be qualified to vote)
- Of sound mind and good moral character.
- Able to read and write.
- Have not served as a juror for six days during the preceding three months in the county court or during the preceding six months in the district court.
- Have not been convicted of theft or any felony.
- Not under indictment or other legal accusation of a misdemeanor theft, felony theft or any other felony charge.
- A resident of the City of Orchard for which the court is established.

It is the citizens responsibility to serve on the jury if requested to. The consequences for not attending jury duty can be as follows:

Any person summoned for jury duty who fails to attend may be fined not more than \$100 for contempt. Art. 45.027, C.C.P. Any person who is charged with this type of contempt is entitled to notice and a hearing before the court.

If after challenges, strikes, or legal exemptions, there are an insufficient number of jurors in attendance, the judge shall order the proper officer, usually a peace officer, to summon a sufficient number of qualified persons to form a new jury panel. Art. 45.028, C.C.P. This is commonly called a pick-up jury.