

The Best Little City in the Country – Est. 1999

Stage 2 Water Restrictions in Effect!

Santa Clara News!

Oct. Nov. 2011

Your City Council

Harrell Felix – (830) 914-4392
Grant Hodges – (210) 393-4823
Jim Folbre – (830) 914-3433
Marshall Chamberlain –
(830) 914-3875
Tracy Jonassen – (830) 420-3703

Welcome to New City Sec. –

Amie Bandel

(830) 914-4443 (City Hall, Please Leave
Message if No Answer) or email
info@ciSantaClaraTx.us

Mayor Jeff Hunt – (210) 833-2636
mayor@cisantaclaratx.us

City Website...

www.cisantaclaratx.us

**Thank you to Joyce Damerau
for her years of service to the
City of Santa Clara as City
Secretary. She will be missed.
We wish her the best.**

Notice:

A black cow with ear tag has been seen roaming the streets here for a week. Please be very careful when driving, it is a hazard (for the cow as well as for drivers). If you see this cow contact the Sheriff's Office.

Disclaimer:

This newsletter is for information purposes only and does not necessarily reflect the opinions or beliefs of City Officials, the newsletter editor or the citizens of Santa Clara.

Happy Holidays !

Last Minute Entry... Marion ISD

To The Marion ISD community, there is going to be a Town Hall meeting at the Middle school cafeteria on Sat. October 22 at 10 am and Sunday October 23 at 2pm there will be a presentation on the bond and have a walkthrough of the school for anyone in the community that has questions on the need for improvements to our district. There will also be a time for questions and answers from the board members and or superintendent.

The Marion School Bond will be voted on -

November 8, 2011

Committees

Emergency Services Committee-

Chairman Jeff Hunt, Jim Folbre, Dennis Lee, David Mueller, John Terry.

Road Committee –

Chairman Harrell Felix, Dennis Lee, Tom Owens, Phil Sierer, John Terry, Cindy Peters, Ron Crockett.

City Development Committee-


Chairman Robert Courtney, David Cale, Molly Frederick, Grant Hodges, Jeff Hunt.

Communication Committee-

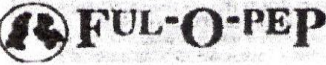


Chairwoman Barbara Trammell, Molly Frederick, John Peters, Danny Trammell, David Cale.

**Alert: Rattlesnakes are being
seen in the community.
Be alert and careful....watch
your children and pets.**

We have moved to
231 E. San Antonio
in Marion



**HILD BROS
FEED**

231 E. San Antonio
Marion, TX
(830) 420-2313



Cool Aid
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Matt Ellis

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Owner

LONDIE BYRD
Owner



**MARION
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P.O. BOX 187, MARION, TEXAS 78124
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Marion, Texas 78124

830 / 914-2387 Office
830 / 914-2490
830 / 914-2917 Fax

David Mueller
david.mueller@sbcglobal.net
www.kdjinsurance.com

Planning Commission

John D. Peters – Chairman
Dennis D. Lee Jr.
Barbara Trammell
Molly Frederick
Robert Courtney
John Terry
Ron Crockett

Santa Clara residents are invited to attend both the City Council and Planning Commission meetings.

A Big Thanks!
Thank you to Steve Beisser for his help. His vacancy on the Planning Commission has been filled by Robert Courtney.

Advertising: 4 Issues Per Year
\$25 per year for Business card ad. Payment due by December 15, 2011, for year 2012.
Please make check payable to City of Santa Clara

mail c/o Barbara Trammell, PO Box 339, Marion, TX 78124

MOW 'EM DOWN AND PICK 'EM UP

BY JOHN PETERS

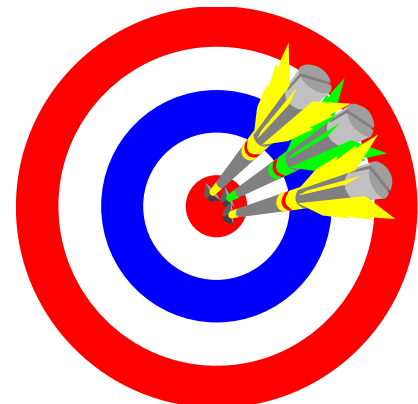
If you are reading this then maybe the corny title did its job. The city needs your assistance to keep the grass and brush cut along the roadways that border your property! In the budget for Fiscal Year 2012 the City Council set the Ad Valorem tax rate at zero (0). This means there will be no tax revenue to help pay the cost of providing city services. By your mowing the grass and cutting down dead trees, scrubs, and limbs that border your property or block vision at an intersection means the city's limited funds can be directed toward road maintenance and improvements, and other city obligations. It improves the appearance of your property and gives you an opportunity to pick up litter tossed out by careless individuals using our roadways.

The borders of our roadways will become more overgrown when the rain returns (a big if) during the growing season. Currently, the city council has allocated only enough money to mow twice in the FY 2012 season. This makes it even more important for all of us to pitch in and take care of our own property along the roadway.

The majority of citizens do a good job of maintaining their borders, but there are always a few that do not. In the near future city officials are going to make a concentrated effort to identify those citizens who are not interested in taking care of their roadside property. When identified the officials will work closely with these citizens to get them on board to help improve the appearance of their property that front the city's streets and roads, and thusly improve safety issues and reduce city costs.

Thank you for taking the time to read this article and hopefully the interest has been generated to help keep the city looking first rate. If all of us pitch in and mow 'em down and pick 'em up, the chore will be easier and our city will continue to thrive.

Contact your City Mayor or City Council with questions regarding the city or with your ideas and thoughts for the future.



Common Sense?

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Common Sense, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as:-Knowing when to come in out of the rain; - Why the early bird gets the worm;- Life isn't always fair; - And maybe it was my fault. Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies, don't spend more than you can earn and adults, not children, are in charge. His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a 6-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition. Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job that they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children. It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or an aspirin to a student; but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion. Common Sense lost the will to live as the churches became businesses; and criminals received better treatment than their victims. Common Sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar could sue you for assault. Common Sense finally gave up the will to live, after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap, and was promptly awarded a huge settlement. Common Sense was preceded in death, by his parents, Truth and Trust, by his wife Discretion, his daughter Responsibility, and his son, Reason. He is survived by his 4 stepbrothers; I Know My Rights, I Want It Now, Someone Else Is To Blame, I'm A Victim. Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone. If you still remember him, pass this on. If not, do nothing.

Submitted by B. Trammell

Letter to the Editor...

VOTER APATHY – ARE YOU GUILTY? By John Peters

This is a “get out the vote” call. In just 13 months, the U.S. will elect or re-elect a president, senators and congresspersons. As important as these elections are, local government (your city) has a more direct and personal impact on you. Another city council election is scheduled in May 2012 – just seven short months away. It is your right under the U.S. constitution to vote for choices and people to act on your behalf in local government. Voting is a great privilege and responsibility that many people throughout the world do not enjoy. Your city officials are elected to provide the services required to make the city function in a cohesive and appropriate manner. However, they need your help and involvement. In the last city election, three openings in the city government were filled without voter participation. Since the candidates ran unopposed, no city election was needed. This is not the optimum way your city should be governed. The city needs you! Get involved, run for office, attend council and planning commission meetings, and volunteer to serve on the various planning commission committees. At the very least, attend the meetings and sign up for “Citizens to be Heard” when you have concerns about your city or the way city business is conducted. Let your voice be heard. This way you can ensure that your desires and opinions matter. Working together, we can maintain the purpose for which the city was established. Your vote has power. Your active involvement in your community is even more powerful!

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Phone
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ddesiredhair@satx.rr.com 210-789-8372

Dawn Richardson and J Dawn Munoz
 Owners and Stylists

New Restaurant in Marion



Lulu's

11am – 8pm 830-420-3121

This was formerly 78 Café on 78,
 next to The Calico Rose.

FOR SALE in Santa Clara

10 Piece Diningroom Set – dark wood.
 7 ft. table, no leaf, 8 chairs, corner cabinet
 & hutch. \$1300.
 Large computer desk, 5 ft. \$75.
 Antique Marble Washstand. \$100.
 38” Oak & Glass Coffee Table. \$75.
 Contact 830-914-4381 for appoint.

Local Area EVENTS

Watercolor Painting Class
 FREE to our citizens!
 Held at Santa Clara City Hall once a
 month.
 Contact Thelma Cale for information.
 (830) 914-3861

City Council
 Meetings are held at Santa Clara City
 Hall the 4th Monday of the month,
 beginning at 6:30pm unless posted
 otherwise at City Hall.

Planning Commission
 Meetings are held at Santa Clara City
 Hall the 2nd Monday of the month,
 beginning at 6:30pm unless otherwise
 posted at City Hall.

Nov.8, 2022
Marion School Bond Election

Note: Thelma Cale's column will be in the next
 issue again.

DUMP info...

**Guadalupe County Citizens Waste
 Disposal Site**
FM 78 - just north of downtown Marion.

Hours: 8:30am to 4:30pm
Wednesday – Saturday

\$1.25 per 30 lb. trash bag

**Glass, cardboard, and tin are free,
 inquire at site for other services.**

Letter to the Editor...

New SC Council ---- New SC Direction
by New Councilman Marshall Chamberlain

In May of this year, **SC held it's (odd year) annual election for 2 (two) Councilmen and a Mayor.** None of the incumbent councilmen or the incumbent mayor filed for re-election. Therefore, **2 (two) new Councilmen and a new Mayor were sworn in on May 23, 2011** to make decisions for the city.

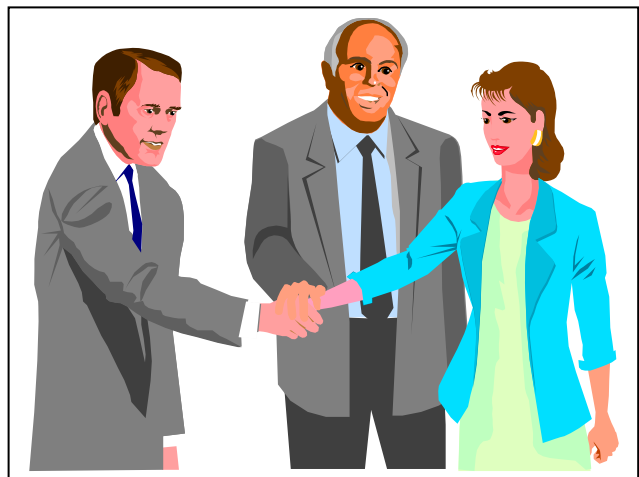
The new council has undertaken the task of identifying and correcting the problems of the previous administration. Some were housekeeping problems and others were legal issues they hadn't dealt with before their terms ran out in May 2011.

SC's new council added some security measures to City Hall, adopted a barebones budget to get a handle on city expenses, while eliminating the (unfair and unequal) **Ad Valorem Tax** by setting the **2011 Tax Rate at \$0.00.**

SC's City Attorney resigned effective May 23, 2011, leaving the new council without legal council until they were able to interview and hire a **new attorney.** **By the way, he lives in SC.** The previous administration would never discuss the possibility of re-negotiating the City's contract with GPP (the power plant). This council has opened a dialogue with the new owners of GPP to rewrite our contract as well as increase GPP's annual contribution to the city. This year, **SC's payment is \$130,000.** GPP will pay **Guadalupe County almost \$800,000** in county and lateral road taxes in January, 2012. County commissioners don't plan to spend a **DIME** of that money anywhere near/or in **SC.**

At the present time, the **new council has 9 (nine) ordinances** on the table to correct other problems dealing with the structure of the city. **Come to City Hall on the 4th Monday of each month at 6:30pm** if you want more details on the ordinances.

It's the least I can do to help those less fortunate. Help will arrive when I am ready to accept it. It's my civic duty. It's not a hand out, it's a hand up. Give credit where credit is due. I am worth the investment or he/she is entitled to my assistance. 'Beggars can't be choosers,' but you can't keep a good one down. I am empowered by gratitude and my asset is obligation.' Anonymous



New “Letters to the Editor section”...all submissions are reviewed. Letters are welcome!

Disclaimer: This newsletter is for information purposes only and does not necessarily reflect the opinions or beliefs of City Officials, the newsletter editor or the citizens of Santa Clara.

Letter to the Editor...

Turning Point by T.F. Jonassen

There has been a rumor in the Santa Clara community that some effort is being made to disband the City by certain members of the City Council. This rumor is not true. All of the City Council members wish to see the City continue. There are some disagreements over how this will be accomplished since there are serious concerns about revenue for the City. At a recent City Council meeting County Commissioner Cope and the Guadalupe Superintendent of Roads pointed out that Santa Clara has 26 miles of roads and offered that it would cost \$400,000 a year to maintain these roads. The 2011 tax rate was \$0.12 per hundred and produced under \$40,000 in revenue. Using the County figures for roads maintenance would mean that the tax rate would have to climb to \$1.25. This does not take into consideration sales tax revenue and funds received from the Power Plant on Weil Road. Sales tax generally runs around \$2,000 and the Power Plant payment is \$130,000 so that total revenue absent property tax plus miscellaneous revenue is about \$140,000. If all other revenues were collected the tax rate would still be around \$0.81 or about double the rate in neighboring municipalities. The taxable property base for Santa Clara is \$32 million.

When the City was incorporated on May 1, 1999 it was intended that the roads would continue to be maintained by Guadalupe County. However, on December 4, 2001 the Guadalupe Commissioner’s Court ordered that Santa Clara would maintain the roads after September 30, 2003. The Court’s logic was that Santa Clara had extended its boundaries so that they crossed roads and that by “...incorporation or extension of a city embraced within its limits, is thereafter a street of the city....”. At the time of incorporation the City was depicted as being south of Weil Road, north of Youngsford Road, east of Santa Clara Road, etc.. In other roads the City was to be bounded by County roads which the County would maintain. The only filed map of the City was done by Mr. Perez, the elections administrator for Guadalupe County, and it shows this to be true. At issue is the fact that Santa Clara does exist on both sides of roads that had been intended to be boundary roads and subject to County Control and Maintenance. The reason for extension of the City to both sides are not known. It has been suggested that there was need for more population given that population in excess of 201 persons is needed to incorporate.

The City Council has considered means to reduce the burden on the residents of Santa Clara, none of whom it is assumed wish to pay twice the tax rates of neighboring communities. There is also the problem of the physical lay out of the City which levies taxes disproportionately on a few persons. One calculation shows that 30 % pay more than the majority of the tax. The City also has a 5 acre and frontage rule for building and subdividing but there is only one property in Santa Clara’s limits that conforms to this rule. City population has declined with the last census but for Santa Clara to annex property other than by voluntary annexation the population has to exceed 2001 persons. Plainly stated the City has a number of serious issues that affect all of the residents.

One final thing, to dispel the last rumor heard and mentioned by residents of Santa Clara.

No municipality has the power to take away an agricultural exemption. Agricultural exemptions are a creature of the State of Texas administered through County Government. This does not mean a Municipality can not annex land and tax it but the basis for the tax is the AG value of the land. Some municipalities have entered into agreements for voluntary annexation with a contractual agreement not to tax for a period of years but not to take away an AG value.

Please submit all Letters to the Editor by email, to danbar@gvec.net.

Should they need to be edited, you will be contacted prior.

The next newsletter is going out in February 2012

Also, we will continue the FOR SALE section, it is Free to the Santa Clara community. Yard Sales will be added. This may be submitted by email, by phone or by mail.

Call Barbara at 830-914-4069 with any questions.

City Council Minutes

The Santa Clara City Council met on August 22, 2011. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 by Mayor Jeff Hunt. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present for roll call was Councilman Felix, Councilman Chamberlain, Councilman Hodges and Councilman Jonassen. Councilman Folbre was absent.

Councilman Hodges made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 25, 2011 meeting. Councilman Jonassen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Citizens to Heard; Tom Owens was concerned were the money would come from. In order to receive grants, you need to show revenue.

Dudley Waits from the Schertz EMS gave a presentation of how the funds are used. The cost for 2011-2012 is \$12.21 per ca-pita. The cost will be \$8,852.00 for the City.

Bill White was present and he discussed how he did the road work. Donna said she was making a map of the City with all the signs locations.

Chairman Peters gave a report of the Planning Commission meeting. He reported that Mr. Williams had not responded to the variance request. The Inter agency Agreement had been tabled. The Planning Commission had recommended the budget and the proposed tax rate of 0.12 per hundred to the Council.

Councilman Jonassen made a motion to approve financial report. Councilman Chamberlain seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

A discussion of hiring a City Attorney was held. Councilman Chamberlain made a motion to table to next meeting to be able to look at the resumes. Councilman Jonassen seconded the motion. Motion Carried. The attorney Navarro would work on a per item. We could use him as needed until an attorney is hired.

Councilman Hodges and Mayor Hunt are working on the contract with GPP. hey are working on a flat amount with an increase of 2% per year.

The purposed budget was presented and discussed. Councilman Chamberlain presented a budget. Councilman Jonassen made a motion to accept the budget presented by Councilman Chamberlain. Councilman Hodges seconded the motion. There were 3 for and 1 against Councilman Felix against.

Councilman Hodges made a motion to set the tax rate at \$0.00. Councilman Jonassen seconded the motion. There 3 for and 1 against Councilman Felix against.

The next Planning Commission will be September 12, 2011 also meeting will be the Council. Councilman Chamberlain made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Felix seconded the motion.

Jeff Hunt
Mayor

Joyce L Damerau
Secretary

The Santa Clara City Council met on August 29, 2011. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 by Mayor Jeff Hunt.

Councilman present were Hodges, Chamberlain, Felix and Jonassen. Councilman Folbre was absent. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Citizens to Be Heard:

John Peters was concerned about the fast process of the DE-annexation meeting. The citizens were not notified.

Martha Trotter lives north on Weil and was not in the City at the beginning.

Councilman Jonassen reported that the City was created as a Type B City. The petition was not filed with the County showing the metes and bounds. He presented an ordinance to DE-annex the part of the city that was not part of the City at the beginning.

Larry Timmerman, County Roads and Bridge Administrator, spoke and asked Mayor Hunt to meet with him and see what section of roads are DE-annexed. He said the County would not take back the roads.

Councilman Jonassen reported that we could re-file the original map. We could order 3 x 5 maps and Mylar copies with a cost of \$8,000.00 to \$15,000.00.

Councilman Felix voiced a concern that we do not have an attorney to study this. He made a motion to find an attorney to coordinate with the Department of Justice and County to all be proper. The motion died for lack of second.

Councilman Chamberlain said the County is not helping the City with the taxes the citizens pay. Commissioner Cope said that the funds go the Sheriff Department, Fire Dept., and disaster clean-up are some of the things that the taxes are used for.

Councilman Jonassen made a motion to approve the ordinance as presented. Properties to be DE annexed verified against the official map. Councilman Chamberlain seconded the motion. Mayor Hunt said that it is in violation with the Department of Justice. Mayor Hunt said it is clear it effects 2 properties. The properties of Councilman Chamberlain and Councilman Jonassen. Councilman Jonassen made a motion to accept ordinance. Councilman Chamberlain seconded the motion. Mayor Hunt turned down the motion because he cannot agree that meets the property described and feels it is illegal

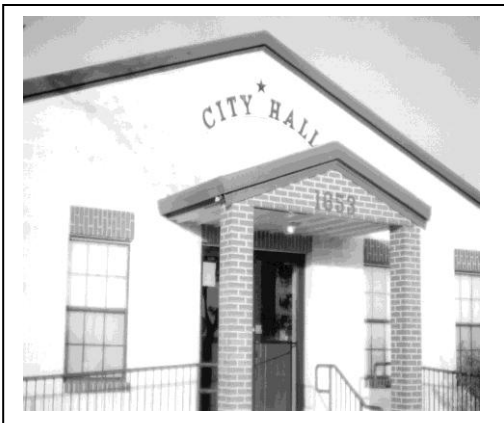
Councilman Hodges made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Felix seconded the motion. There were 3 to adjourn and 1 against. Councilman Jonassen against.

**Jeff Hunt
Mayor**

**Joyce L Damerau
Secretary**



City of Santa Clara
P.O. Box 429
Marion, Texas 78124



**Marion School Bond Info
Town Hall Meeting –
Oct. 22 & 23, Middle School
cafeteria. See inside...
Vote on November 8, 2011**

