

10/30/11

Dear Citizens,

The City of Corsicana recently completed a citizen survey. Questionnaires were sent out to each home in the monthly water bills. Overwhelmingly the most requested item I received was asking the city to improve code compliance among residents. There seems to be an outcry from citizens to clean up Corsicana. As your Mayor, I agree completely.

In response to your request, the city staff has organized a new program. The program will be called the Corsicana Code Rangers. The Rangers are a group of volunteers who are concerned about the appearance of our city and who are willing to donate their time to make a difference. In order to be a Ranger, one must be a resident of Corsicana, over the age of 18, submit to a background check, and attend a four hour training class. The class covers the specific codes to be addressed and procedures that each volunteer must follow. There is a test upon completion of the training that each volunteer must take. Participants that pass are then issued an identification badge.

A total of 12 citizens have signed up to be Rangers. Six attended the first academy. All of the attendees passed the exam and graduated on October 27, 2011. Members of the very first Corsicana Code Rangers group are Jerry Steely, Tom White, Herb Wilcox, Richard Tate, Norris McPherson and Fran Townes. Very soon, you will see these Rangers in your neighborhood. Please thank them when you see them as they are working for our community. These individuals are willing to not just talk about cleaning up the city, but they are willing to invest their time and energy to help the City.

The main goal of the group is to educate the citizens. Many citizens do not know what the codes say and probably do not know they are in violation. The volunteers will be assigned an area of the city to patrol. They will identify the most common code violations. Some of the violations they will be looking for are tall grass and weeds, trash and debris, outside storage, cars parked in the yard, trash out too early and addressing numbers missing from structures. They will place door hangers to advise the citizens of the violation and should have no contact with the violator. This hanger will have a requested time for the violation to be corrected. The volunteer will then return within the given time and if the violation is not corrected, the address will be turned over to the code compliance department for ticketing. In some cases, such as parking in the yard, photographs will be taken and tickets will be issued immediately to the owner of the vehicle.

If you do not have time to volunteer as a Ranger, please consider helping the City by reporting items that need attention. You can do this by using the Citizens Action Center located on the City of Corsicana website, www.ci.corsicana.tx.us; or you may call the Government Center at (903) 654-4800.

If you can volunteer, applications are being accepted for the next training class. Please consider helping the City identify code violators and clean up Corsicana. If you would like to volunteer you may contact Joy Hargrave at (903) 654- 4824. I continue to be proud to be your Mayor.

Chuck McClanahan
Mayor