

Departments

Government

Residents

Businesses

Visitors

About Us



Key Issues for 2010

www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov

The Woodlands Township Board Chambers • 1001 Woodloch Forest Drive, Suite 600 • The Woodlands, Texas 77380

Board Elections – May 2010

- Four Board positions will be open for the May 2010 elections (at large positions)
- A candidate may select to run for one of the four positions
- Interested parties may file from February 5 through March 8
- Election will occur on May 8, 2010
- The Board size will change from 11 members to 7 members
- Candidate School will be held to provide information to individuals who are running for, or interested in running for, a Township Board position
 - Projecting an early March date for the school / 3 to 4 hours
 - Staff will provide overview of Township operations and programs, including a financial summary / funding sources and a summary of Township responsibilities

Board Reorganization Issues / Change in Board Size from 11 to 7

- The Township currently operates with four committees
 - Executive Committee (5 members)
 - Projects, Planning and Development (5 members)
 - Public Facilities (3 members)
 - Governance and Nominations (3 members)
- With the reduction in the size of the board (from 11 to 7), the existing committee structure should be reviewed
 - Assess the need for existing or new committees
 - Governance and Nominations Committee will review and recommend options
 - Recommendation to the Board by April, 2010, for discussion and consideration

Discussion of Future Governance Options

- The Regional Participation Agreement (RPA), approved by Houston and Conroe in 2007, provides that The Woodlands will be free from the threat of annexation for 50 years
- The RPA allows The Woodlands to consider incorporation any time after May 29, 2014
- Residents have expressed a strong interest in understanding more about future governance options/incorporation
- Staff is proposing that the Board begin a community discussion on this matter in the fall of 2010 after the Board elections and budget process are complete
- Purpose of discussion will be to establish a process to explore the governance options and provide factual information to the public
 - Consider establishing a steering committee with specific charge to develop the process and provide community education
 - Discuss timetable for completion of the work
 - Potential timing of election
 - Establish timeframe for voter education prior to the election

2011 Budget and Five Year Plan

- Staff will begin this process in March
- Proposed 2011 budget will be presented to the Board in July
- Planning a Town Hall meeting in July / presentation of budget
- Budget will focus on maintenance of services / maintenance of tax rate
 - Goal is a tax rate of 32.8 cents or less
- The five year financial plan will be reviewed as part of the budget process
- Board must set tax rate by September 1

Consideration of an Over 65 Property Tax Exemption

- This matter was considered by the Board in the spring of 2009
- Although supportive, the Board deferred action in 2009 and directed that the matter be reconsidered after the Township's first tax levy was completed
- The Board directed that this matter be brought back for consideration in February/ March, 2010
- The central issue is the cost of the exemption and the impact of shifting this cost to others
- Based on 2009 numbers, the annual estimated "cost" of each \$5,000 exemption granted is approximately \$71,500
- Some area cities do provide an over 65 exemption / most of these range from \$10,000 to \$25,000
- First discussion by Board planned for February 24, 2010, Board Meeting

Implement a Capital Reserve Study

- The purpose is to develop a plan for the long term funding and replacement of capital assets
- The Township developed a reserve funding plan in the 2010 budget process but this needs to be coupled with a capital reserve study
- Simply stated, this reserve plan will determine the future costs associated with replacing capital assets and match these costs with a funding plan
- The capital reserve study is expected to get underway in the fall of 2010 once the budget process is complete.

General Obligation Bond Issuance

- In November, 2009, voters authorized the Township to issue up to \$49 million in GO bonds
 - Construction of three fire stations and equipment
 - Construction and renovation of parks and pathways
 - Refinancing of debt
- A bond sale is projected in late March / early April
 - Year end financials must be developed prior to the issuance
 - Bond rating is required prior to the issuance

Fire Station #7 and #8 Bid and Construction Calendar

- Final site determination to be made in February / March 2010
- Township projected to sell bonds in April
- Bids proposed to be awarded in June or July
- Construction start in July for Station #7 - Creekside
 - Complete by July, 2011
- Construction start in January, 2011 for Station #8 - Indian Springs / Panther Creek
 - Complete by January, 2012
- Estimated cost is \$3.7 million for each fire station

Initiate planning process for Central Fire Station

- In 2009, bonding was approved for the replacement of Central Fire Station
- Initiate a design process for the reconstruction / seek interest of design firms through an RFP process
- Discuss site design options with County / we have a long term lease on the property
- Develop a calendar for the reconstruction process
- Develop options and costs for a temporary facility to serve the Town Center area during reconstruction
- Construction is projected for a 2012 start date

Decision on Water Taxi Operation

- At the January 27 meeting, the Board voted to enter into an operating agreement to own and operate the water taxi system.
- Board felt that the water taxi system provides a transportation connection and is important to the overall marketing of the Town Center and attracting visitors to the area.
- The water taxi operation is in jeopardy / current owner is not interested in continuing with operations
- Previously, The Township has not been financially involved in the Water Taxi operation
- Township / CVB to enter into an agreement with the Brazos District for operations and grant funding
 - The Development Company will “gift” the Water Taxis to The Township - CVB
 - Commitment by the Township is that the operating subsidy will be limited to \$100,000 per year
 - Township can get out of agreement with 60 day notice
 - The six Water Taxis in fleet will be renovated / estimated cost is \$150,000 to be paid by Township (using 2009 and 2010 set budgeted funds)
 - The \$150,000 funded by Township can also be considered the local match for a \$600,000 capital grant for trolley expansion at a future date
 - Consultant estimates annual Water Taxi “net” operating costs to The Township to be less than \$50,000 in 2010
 - Consultant estimates that there is a good chance that no Township funding will be required in 2011 and 2012 / This is based on improved system sponsorships, advertising and marketing

Planning Process to Consider a Site at the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion for an Ice Rink

- Currently have a land lease option at the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion / this option was acquired in 2009
- Decision must be made on land lease option by 2013
- The current ice rink site is temporary / may or may not be available next year
- Annual cost to set up and take down the temporary ice rink is approximately \$200,000 per year
- Need to perform a feasibility study, no final decision is being made at this time
 - Need architectural analysis to determine if Pavilion site is feasible / a recommendation will be brought to the Board in February (cost of preliminary feasibility study is estimated at \$8,000)
 - After site feasibility analysis, the financial feasibility will need to be discussed with the Board
- Funding for a ice rink project is not included in the 2010 budget / the earliest consideration will be in the 2011 budget process

Extension of Trolley Service to Villages

- Current trolley service is in Town Center only
- Preliminary work has been done to consider extension of trolley service to Village Centers
- Need to conduct additional studies to determine needs/potential ridership
- Service costs vary depending on type of service / peak hour service only vs. full service
- Extension of service will require purchase of additional trolleys and funding of operating costs
- Transportation grant funding may be available for a portion of costs
- Township will probably be required to match the federal grant funding (will have a budget impact)
- May take 18 to 24 months or more to develop and implement

Implementation of Woodlands Law Enforcement District in 2010 / District #6

- In 2009, The Woodlands was split between two Montgomery County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) districts / District #2 and District #6
 - Contracted for 31 personnel in District #2 (Community Associations)
 - Contracted for 24 personnel in District #6 (The Woodlands Township)
- Will be combined into a single Woodlands District – District #6 in 2010
- 82 total personnel assigned to Woodlands District #6
- Community Policing Districts will increase from 5 to 7 to provide better coverage
- Activity reporting will be segregated for The Woodlands - District #6
- MCSO is hiring now / should be implemented by May, 2010
- Deputies are assigned specifically to The Woodlands
- MCSO Deputies will attend Village Association meetings
- Creekside service will continue to be provided by Harris County Constables Office – on an overtime basis

Implementation of Woodlands Law Enforcement District in 2010 / District #6

| | Positions Authorized | Positions Filled |
|--------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Captain | 1 | 1 |
| Lieutenant | 1 | 1 |
| Sergeants | 4 | 4 |
| Corporals | 5 | 5 |
| Deputies | 67 | 50 |
| Detective | 1 | 1 |
| Jailers | 2 | 0 |
| Secretary | 1 | 1 |
| Total | 82 | 63 |

The Woodlands Township Patrol District VI

Presented by:

Captain Andrew Eason
Montgomery County Sheriff's Office

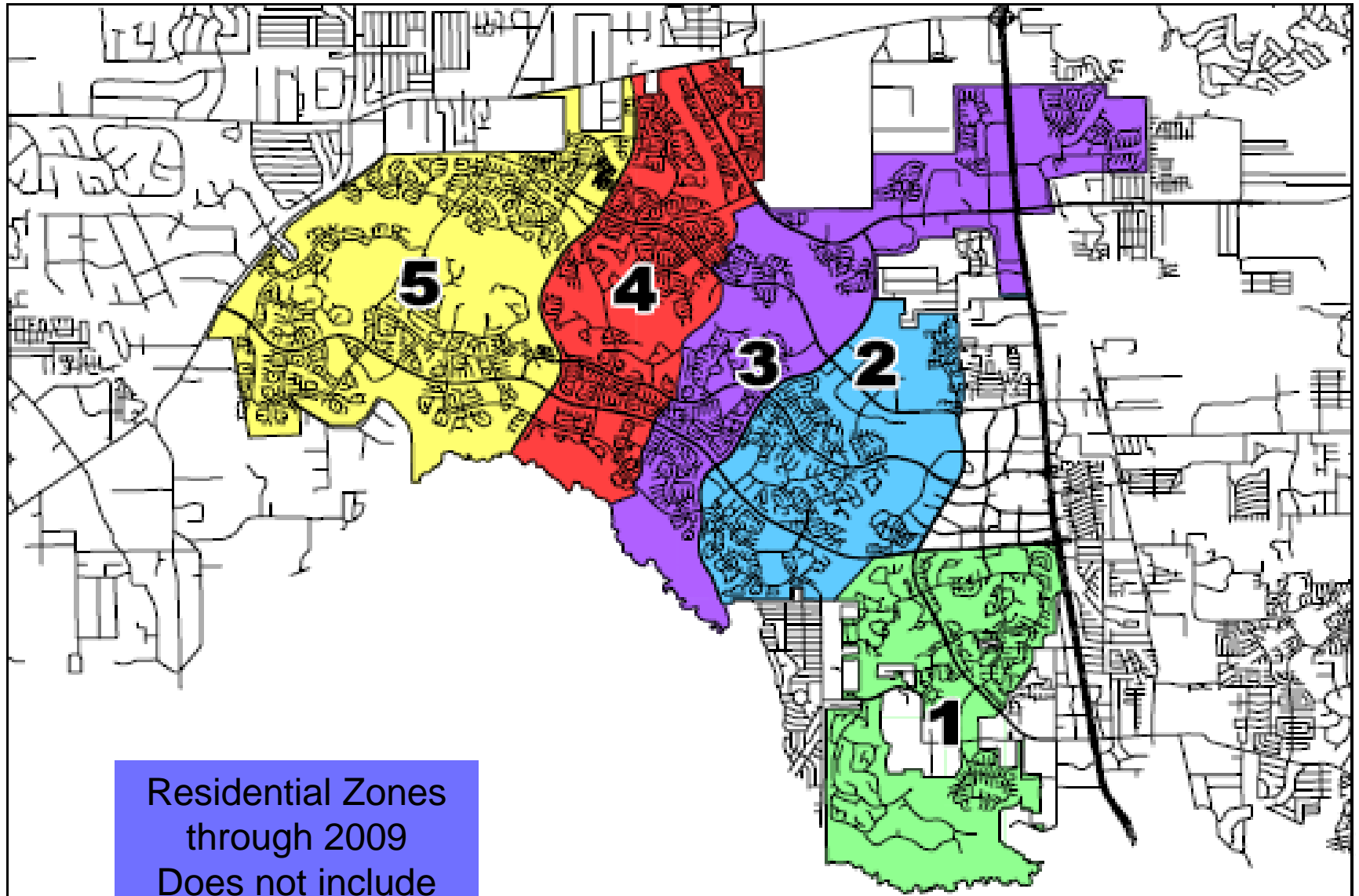


Command Staff

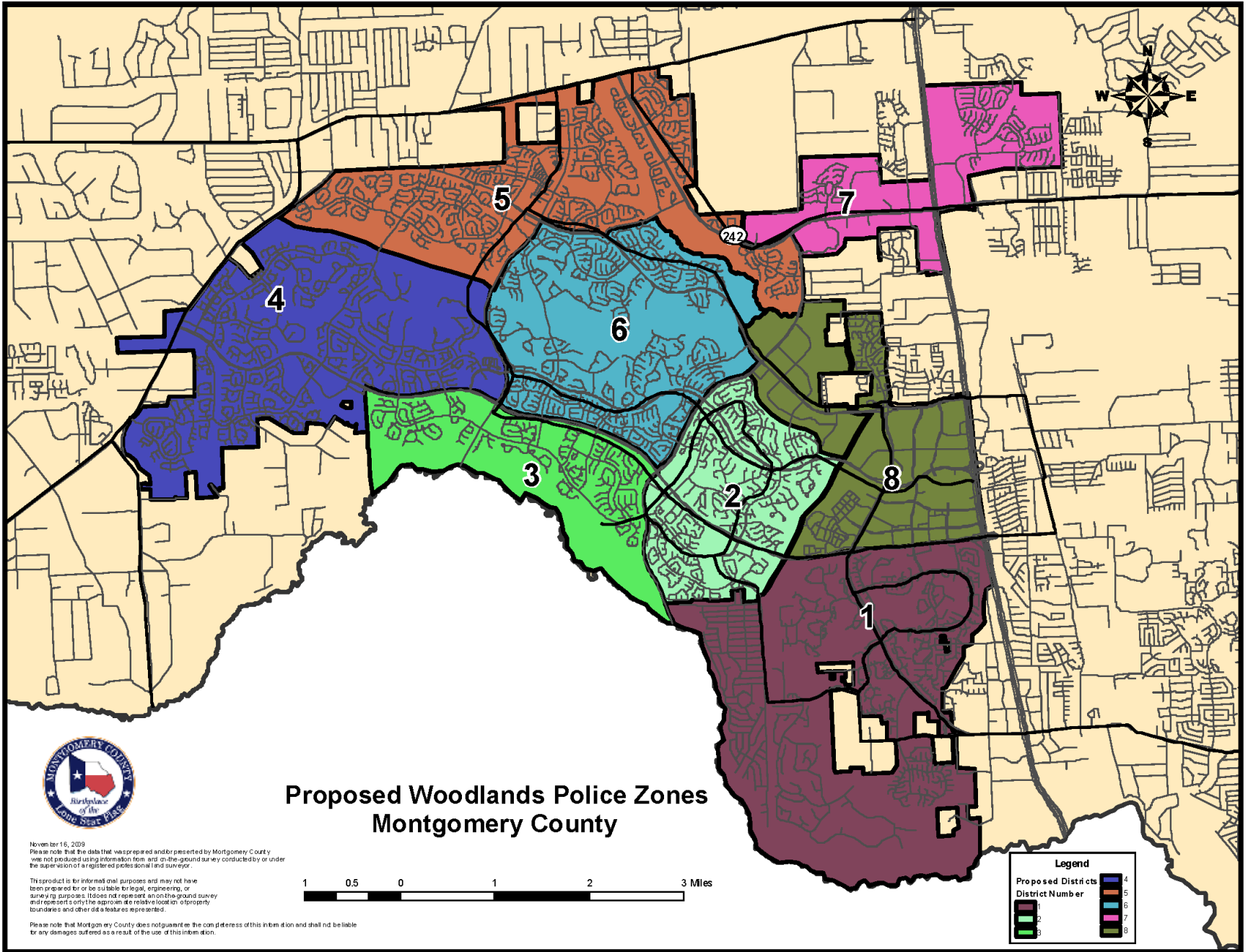
- Sheriff Tommy Gage
 - Chief Deputy Randy McDaniel
 - Captain Andrew Eason
 - Lieutenant David Dottei
 - Sergeant Jason Moore
 - Sergeant Brady Fitzgerald
 - Sergeant Jermaine Jenkins
 - Sergeant Brice Herring

Immediate Goals

- Recruitment Effort
- Equipment
- Building/Office Space
- Transition to New Zones

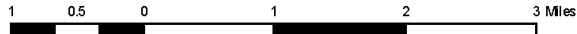


Residential Zones
through 2009
Does not include
"Town Center"



Proposed Woodlands Police Zones Montgomery County

| Legend | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Proposed Districts | District Number |
| | 4 |
| | 5 |
| | 6 |
| | 7 |
| | 8 |
| | 3 |
| | 4 |
| | 2 |
| | 1 |



November 16, 2009
 Please note that the data that was prepared and/or presented by Montgomery County was not produced using information from and/or the ground survey conducted by or under the supervision of a registered professional land surveyor.

This product is for informational purposes only and may not have been prepared for or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. It does not represent an on-the-ground survey and represents only the approximate relative location of property boundaries and other data features represented.

Please note that Montgomery County does not warrant the completeness of this information and shall not be liable for any damages suffered as a result of the use of this information.

Spotlight on success

- Highlights
 - On Duty
 - Targeted Initiatives
 - Overtime Programs
 - Village Center
 - Traffic
 - Accomplishments

Questions?

Captain Andrew Eason
Montgomery County Sheriff's Office

