



South Liberty Global Methodist Church
3410 OILFIELD ROAD, LIBERTY

Come Hear the Word!

Join us this Sunday
for uplifting music, hope, love & fellowship.

Sunday School 10 a.m. Coffee & Bible Study	Sunday Service 11 a.m. Come hear the Word!	Wednesday Night 6 p.m. Meal & Bible Study
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Come Hear the Word!

Pastor Vicki Hough
is filled with the Holy Spirit and loves the Lord!
Available anytime day or night 409-277-1613.

Kolarik seeks voter support in run-off election

It's me again, Liberty County Precinct 4 Commissioner, Gerald Kolarik, and I am once again asking for your vote for County Commissioner. I was honored in the primary as your candidate of choice with over 46% of the vote. I will need every one of the votes cast in the primary election, plus votes from those who supported Brant Elliott to win the runoff.

To briefly reintroduce myself, I am a lifelong resident of Dayton, retired Turn-around Manager for ExxonMobil, and served 15 years on Dayton ISD's Board of Trustees. I am a married father of two, grandfather of five, and a lifelong member of St. Joseph's/St. Anne's Catholic Church.

My work-life experience

suggests there is always a better, more effective way to run a business, and the business of our county is no exception. When looking at organizational improvement, it is always easier to identify corrective action in other departments. However, I will focus my energy on road and bridge cost effectiveness, synergies with other precincts, and fair, data driven road funding formulas. I will continue to advocate for staunch financial stewardship and prudent tax incentives for businesses wanting to locate in Liberty County. Last, but certainly not least, we must strengthen our development standards and provide the process and resources to enforce them.

Finally, if you believe our county should be managed in an open, honest, and transparent manner, with an experienced county commissioner, then please vote for me on May 26.

***Early voting is May 18-22, 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. at the Dayton Community Center and the Cleveland Civic Center. (Liberty County voters can vote at any county election location during early voting and on election day.)**

Pol. Adv. Paid for by Gerald Kolarik



GERALD KOLARIK



Frankly Speaking -

Have You Been Skunked?

by Frank Jordan

As I went to my garbage can to dispose of unwanted leftovers, I started to drop the bag into the container with no lid when two eyes were looking at me from inside the can. Attached was a small black furry body with a white stripe down the middle of the back. No, I didn't get sprayed because I set a record for walking backwards holding a bag of garbage!

Then I realized the poor skunk was there just seeking protected shelter from potential predators surrounded by a few meals. It's amazing the instant reactions these little animals create and no other creature can announce its presence, alive or dead road kill, like a skunk.

So, why do we call a skunk a skunk? Skunk is derived from the Native American Algonquian Indian word seka-kwa literally meaning urinating fox. Now that is a sensible derivation since there is a similar appearance to a small fox possessing a unique odor when issued. We all know that penetrating smell and especially if you unfortunately get sprayed by a threatened skunk. If you, or possibly a pet, are the victim of skunk spray, you have a challenging condition to overcome - you stink!

One step at a time. What do you do if encountering a skunk and then what can you do to overcome and eliminate that awful smell whether from you or a pet? The most effective preventive from being sprayed is to

avoid confronting a skunk. Skunks only spray when threatened, so don't threaten them.

Skunks have very poor sight so if you have a confrontation, speak only in a low voice, including avoiding a loud shout often including profanity. Some say stay perfectly still and hope the skunk, not being threatened, will just walk away. If the skunk stays in place more than five minutes, you have a problem.

You're probably like me, and not going to stay still, waiting for the skunk to make a decision. You need to know just before a skunk fires its spray of stink, the skunk stamps its feet and turns around since the spray glands are located near the anus. If you see your confronted skunk doing this little dance, forget standing still and run because you are about to get skunked.

If you get sprayed in the face, immediately flush your face and eyes with water. The sulfur-alcohol compound that skunks emit can cause temporary blindness, which for some leads to bigger vision issues. Skip the V8 juice, lemon juice and air fresheners. With rare exceptions, tomato juice doesn't take the smell of skunk off of you, your dog or your clothes. You will have a combination stink of skunk odor combined with lemony or tomatoey hints of fragrance.

Instead, you must neutralize the chemicals in the spray. Mix one quart of three percent hydrogen peroxide, one teaspoon mild dishwashing detergent and 1/2 cup baking soda, preferably outside in a bucket. Lather, rinse and repeat. Pet stores also now sell special sprays formulated to neutralize the intense skunk odor, so if in an area frequented by your small black friends with a white stripe, try these specialty products.

If you have been bitten, you must be aware skunks in rare situations have been known to carry rabies. Notify your public health department within 24 hours of the incident. Frankly speaking, the skunks are as frightened of you as you are of them so just avoid each other. You are five to six times taller than the small creatures with the big smell and since you aren't going to spray them back, just give them room and avoid the boom. How you convince your cat or dog not to paw or bark is another matter, with a memorable moment almost certain to occur to ruin your day - you've been skunked!

Sopchak receives \$2,500 scholarship from BBB SE Texas

Addison Sopchak of Hardin High School was a recipient of The Better Business Bureau (BBB) Southeast Texas Foundation's "Student of Integrity" scholarship. The \$2,500 scholarships are presented personally by members of the BBB Foundation Board of Trustees during senior awards ceremonies at the recipient's respective high school. The Foundation awards one winner in each of the eight counties served, with three winners selected from Jefferson County due to the density of the student population. Students who embody the highest standards of ethics, character, and community leadership while achieving academic excellence are honored. Each student undergoes a rigorous application process, including essays and recommendations that highlighted their commitment to doing the right thing, even when no one is watching.



ADDISON SOPCHAK

LIBERTY GAZETTE
936-336-6416

Property Tax Protest and Appeal Procedures

Property owners have the right to protest actions concerning their property tax appraisals. You may follow these appeal procedures if you have a concern about:

- your property's appraised (market) value
- the unequal value of your property compared with other properties;
- your property's inclusion on the appraisal records;
- any exemptions that may apply to you;
- qualification for an agricultural or timber appraisal;
- the taxing units taxing your property;
- the property's ownership;
- the change of use of land receiving special appraisal;
- failure of the chief appraiser or appraisal review board (ARB) to send a required notice;
- the denial, modification or cancellation of the circuit breaker limitation on appraised value;
- the determination of incorrect appraised value and allocation of value of a structure, archaeological site and land necessary for access under a historic site exemption; or
- any action taken by the appraisal district or ARB that applies to and adversely affects you.

Informal Review

Liberty County Appraisal District
2030 Sam Houston Street
Liberty, Texas 77575 936-336-5722

Review by the ARB

If you cannot resolve your problem informally with the appraisal district, you have the right to have your case heard by the ARB.

The ARB is an independent board of citizens that hears and determines protests regarding property appraisals or other concerns listed above. It has the power to order the appraisal district to make the necessary changes based on evidence heard during the ARB hearing.

If you file a written request for an ARB hearing (notice of protest) before the deadline, the ARB will set your case for a hearing and send you written notice of the hearing's time, date, place and subject. If necessary, you may request an evening of Saturday hearing. You may use Comptroller Form 50-132, *Property Appraisal - Notice of Protest*, to file your written request for an ARB hearing.

Prior to your hearing, you may request a copy of the evidence the appraisal district plans to introduce at the hearing to establish any matter at issue. Before a protest hearing or immediately after the hearing begins, you or your authorized representative and the appraisal district are required to provide each other with a copy of any materials (evidence) intended to be offered or submitted to the ARB at the hearing. You may submit evidence for any hearing type either in paper or on a small portable electronic device (such as a CD, USB flash drive or thumb drive) which the ARB will keep. Do NOT bring evidence on a smart phone. Review the ARB's hearing procedures regarding all the requirements to properly submit evidence on a small portable electronic device.

To the greatest extent practicable, the hearing will be informal. You or your authorized representative may appear in person, by telephone conference or videoconference call or by submitting a written affidavit to present your evidence, facts and argument. You must indicate the type of hearing you request on your written notice. You must file the notice with the ARB not later than the fifth day before the hearing date

if you have not designated an agent under Tax Code Section 1.111, or 10 days before the hearing date if you have designated an agent under Tax Code Section 1.111 to represent you at the hearing. You must provide your evidence and written affidavit before the hearing begins. You may use Comptroller Form 50-283, *Property Owner's Affidavit of Evidence to the Appraisal Review Board*, to submit evidence for your telephone or video conference call hearing or for hearing by affidavit.

You and the appraisal district representative have the opportunity to present evidence about your case. In most cases, the appraisal district has the burden of establishing the property's value by a preponderance of the evidence presented.

In certain protests, the chief appraiser has the burden of proving the property's value by clear and convincing evidence. You should review ARB hearing procedures to learn more about evidence and related matters.

You should not try to contact ARB members outside of the hearing. ARB members are required to sign an affidavit saying that they have not talked about your case before the ARB hears it.

If you believe that the ARB or chief appraiser failed to comply with an ARB procedural requirement, you may file a complaint with the local taxpayer liaison officer. If the ARB or chief appraiser do not resolve it, you can request limited binding arbitration to compel the ARB or the chief appraiser to comply.

Review by the District Court, an Arbitrator or SOAH

After it decides your case, the ARB must send you a copy of its order by certified mail. If you are not satisfied with the ARB's decision, you have the right to appeal to district court. As an alternative to district court, you may appeal through regular binding arbitration or the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) if you meet the qualifying criteria.

If you choose to go to district court, you must start the process by filing a petition with the district court within 60 days of the date you receive the ARB's order. If you choose to appeal through regular binding arbitration, you must file a request for regular binding arbitration not later than the 60th day after you receive notice of the ARB order. Additional information on how to appeal through regular binding arbitration will be included with the ARB's order of determination. If you choose to appeal to SOAH, you must file an appeal with the appraisal district not later than the 30th day after you receive notice of the ARB's order. Appeals to district court, regular binding arbitration or SOAH all require payment of certain fees or deposits.

Tax Payment

You must pay the amount of taxes due on the portion of the taxable value not in dispute, the amount of taxes due on the property under the order from which the appeal is taken or the amount of taxes due in the previous year.

More Information

You can get more information by contacting your appraisal district at

Liberty County Appraisal District
2030 Sam Houston Street,
Liberty, Texas 77575 936-336-5722

You can get Comptroller forms and additional information on how to prepare a protest from the Comptroller's website at: comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/property-tax/.

Deadline for Filing Protests with the ARB*

Usual Deadline

Not later than May 15 (or within 30 days after the appraisal district mailed a notice of appraised value to you, whichever is later).

Late protests are allowed for good cause if you miss the usual deadline. The ARB decides whether you have good cause. Late protests are not allowed after the ARB approves the appraisal records for the year.

Special Deadlines

For change of use (the appraisal district informed you that you are losing agricultural appraisal because you changed the use of your land), the deadline is not later than the 30th day after the notice of the determination was delivered to you.

* The deadline is postponed to the next business day if it falls on a weekend or legal, state or national holiday.

For ARB changes (the ARB has informed you of a change that increases your tax liability and the change did not result from a protest you filed), the deadline is not later than the 30th day after the notice of the change was delivered to you.

If you believe the appraisal district or ARB should have sent you a notice and did not, you may file a protest until the day before taxes become delinquent (usually Feb. 1) or no later than the 125th day after the date you claim you received a tax bill from one or more of the taxing units that tax your property. The ARB decides whether it will hear your case based on evidence about whether a required notice was mailed to you.