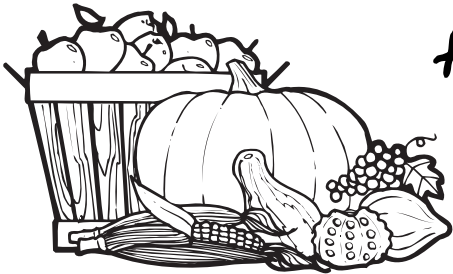


The FORUM

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Escapees Mail Service Newsletter
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Happy Holidays from Escapees RV Club!

All of those who work in the mail service office and Escapees Club headquarters wish you a magical holiday season and a new year filled with exciting new adventures.

Important Holiday Hours

In keeping with the family spirit of Escapees, we would like our employees to be able to spend time with their families during the holiday season. Please take special notice of the days when our offices will be closed or our mail services will be limited.

Thanksgiving

November 27 (Thursday): Offices closed. Mail pickup window closed. No mail outgoing. If your mail instructions request forwarding on this day, it will automatically be sent on Friday, November 28, instead.

November 28 (Friday): Offices closed. Mail pickup window open 1:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m. Scheduled mail will be processed. If you do not have Friday, November 28, as a scheduled mail day but would like your mail to be forwarded then or Monday, December 1, you must notify our office before 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 26.

Christmas

December 24 (Wednesday): Offices open normal hours.

December 25 (Thursday): Offices closed. Mail pickup window closed. No mail will be processed.

December 26 (Friday): Offices closed. Mail pickup window closed. Scheduled mail will be processed.

December 27 (Saturday): Offices closed. Mail pickup window open 1:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m. Scheduled mail will be processed.

New Year's

January 1 (Thursday): Offices closed. Mail pickup window closed. No mail will be processed. If you this is your scheduled mail day, your mail will be sent on Friday, Janu-

ary 2, instead. If you do not have Thursday or Friday as regular mail-forwarding days but would like to arrange for your mail to be sent on Friday, you must call before 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 31.

Special Holiday Tips

- * Review your holiday mail-forwarding schedule and plan ahead!
- * Remember to ask friends and relatives not to send perishable items.
- * The holidays are a good time to update friends who are addressing mail incorrectly to you.
- * Beware of catalog purchases—your address may end up on junk mail lists!

Important E-mail Addresses

To leave mail-forwarding instructions ... mailservice@escapees.com
Vehicle registration questions clubbusiness@escapees.com
Free e-mail accounts email@escapees.com
General mail-service business mailservice@escapees.com
General club business clubbusiness@escapees.com

Important E-mail Tips

- ☞ Remember to include your PMB number in the subject line when e-mailing your address changes and mailing instructions.
- ☞ Be sure to list your complete name and address including the zip code.
- ☞ Provide the dates you want your mail sent in the body of your e-mail (not in the subject line).
- ☞ Let us know if you prefer your mail sent priority or FedEx.
- ☞ Include your password if you have one.
- ☞ If you do not receive an automated response (confirming your e-mail was received) within 24 hours of sending your message, please contact us.

Political Affairs

The check is in the mail!

You've surely learned by now that Proposition 5, the Texas trailer tax repeal constitutional amendment, was passed on September 13. Nearly 63 percent of the voters were in favor of the repeal.

Livingston Independent School District began mailing refund checks immediately, but due to the large volume of checks to be issued, it has been a slow but steady process. Many members have reported that they have received their refunds.

Thanks again to all of you who stood firm and supported us in the fight to get the trailer tax repealed.

Clean Air Act

Embedded in a bill under the Texas Emission Reduction Plan (TERP) and linked to the federal Clean Air Act was a revision in the law affecting diesel motor vehicles over 14,000 pounds.

A fee requirement for 1996 (and older) motor vehicles over 14,000 pounds has been on the books for several years. Charg-

ing a fee on vehicles newer than 1997 is a recent change. If applicable, this is a one-time fee levied when a diesel motor vehicle is titled.

We are unaware of any Escapees who have been affected by this fee in Polk County to date; however, we will be working to address this issue during the next legislative session.

Caution Light Requested

Bob Willis, Polk County commissioner for Precinct 1, officially contacted TXDOT requesting the installation of some type of warning device or devices on Hwy 146 near the Escapees Rainbow Park entrance.

RV traffic is heavy, and movements in and out of this intersection are sometimes slow. We agree with Bob that a caution device would reduce the potential hazard at this intersection.

We certainly owe Bob Willis a huge thank you. He fought for Escapees whose votes were challenged in the 2000 election, he has completely repaved Providence Road leading to our park, and now he has become an advocate for our safety!

Upcoming Election Information

March 9, 2004, Primary Election

January 9, 2004 First day to apply for ballot by mail
February 9, 2004 Last day to register to vote
February 23, 2004 First day of early voting
March 2, 2004 Last day to apply for ballot by mail
March 5, 2004 Last day of early voting

April 13, 2004, Primary Runoff Election

February 13, 2004 First day to apply for ballot by mail
March 15, 2004 Last day to register to vote
April 5, 2004 First day of early voting
April 6, 2004 Last day to apply for ballot by mail
April 9, 2004 Last day of early voting

Voter Resource Information

Applications fax line 936-327-6874
County Clerk/Voting Info. 936-327-6804
..... or 936-327-6805
Texas State Elections 800-252-VOTE (8683)
www.escapees.com/website/voterinfo.htm

Voting By Mail

When you apply for a ballot by mail, you must first request an application. Once your application is received by the County Clerk, a ballot will then be mailed to you.

The ballot must be mailed to an address outside of Polk County, unless you are 65 (or older) or disabled (no proof necessary);

however, you must indicate your reason for applying for an absentee ballot, e.g. disabled, away traveling, etc.

Escapees Mail Service members who will be traveling out of state may have their ballots sent to the following address:

Your Name
c/o Escapees RV Club
PO Box 1578
Shepherd, TX 77371

This special box is for Escapees members who will be away traveling and do not have a secure temporary mailing address that they are comfortable using. Escapees Mail Service agents will forward these ballots to you, but it is important to recognize that this can cause an additional time delay. It is always best to have your applications and ballots sent directly to you if at all possible.

Remember, you must request your application first, send it back to the County Clerk, receive your ballot, and mail it back to the County Clerk (see address below for returning ballots), all before the election deadline.

Mail application requests and return ballots to:

Early Voting Clerk
PO Drawer 2119
Livingston, TX 77351-9401