

City Business
“Cleaning Up Our Act”
by Michael Leamons

City Hall has received numerous complaints about vehicles making a lot of noise as they are driven through town. Somehow, among some of the local youth, it has become fashionable to mount speakers in the grills of their pick up trucks. While cruising around town, these adolescent drivers turn the volume to their external speakers up so high that area resident's homes are invaded by the resultant noise and vibrations. If they've driven past your house, you know what I'm talking about!

While working in City Park last week, I had the opportunity to witness one of these noise machines in action. The operator was informed how City Hall had been receiving complaints about the noise, and that a complaint was going to be filed against him. Shortly thereafter, one of our deputies issued him a warning. Over the weekend a citation was issued against another of these noise machine operators. Why do City Hall and the Sheriff's Department have to deal with this? Do these youth have no parents, guardians or responsible adults involved in their lives?

Switching gears, the City has been busy getting its house in order. Last summer, staff cleared the brush that had grown up around the old Gulf Building. Then, they cleaned out the junk and old tires which appear to have been stored there virtually untouched since the 1980's. Last week, they removed and replaced the building's rotten steps and landing. Now the building is ready to be used for storage.

As previously mentioned in this column, during the week after Christmas the staff cleared out over a roll-off container load of junk from the old Pecan Street Waterworks building. Last week, they tore down the rotten shed roof and cleared the brush that had grown up around the building.

The City has a productive team of field hands. Under Public Works Supervisor Pitchford's guidance, a lot of progress is being made in getting City facilities cleaned up and put in order.

If everyone would be diligent to clean up their own place, it would transform the appearance of our fair City. Many hands make light work!

As always, voluntary action is encouraged and preferred. But, to address those situations where voluntary action isn't forthcoming, over the years the Hico City Council has enacted ordinances establishing community standards regarding the appearance of yards, lots and structures. Even now, the City's Code, Development and Project (CDP) Manager DuBose is working with citizens to get certain dilapidated structures brought up to code or torn down. Whether through voluntary action or through working with our CDP Manager, your cooperation in getting things cleaned up is appreciated.

May God bless the City of Hico.