

# SPOTLIGHT

Texas is made up of 254 counties, each with a team of locally elected and appointed county officials serving their community. Polk County's elected offices include a County Judge and four Road & Bridge Commissioners that make up the Commissioners Court, the County Court at Law Judge, four Justices of the Peace, four Constables, a County Clerk, District Clerk, District Attorney, Treasurer, Tax Assessor-Collector and Sheriff.

There is no hierarchy in county government, so the only boss of these elected officials is ***You, the People.***

There are two District Court systems that serve Polk County, the 258th and the 411th Courts, which are responsible for appointing our County Auditor. The County Judge appoints the Emergency Management Coordinator, and all other officials are appointed by the Commissioners Court to run various county departments. These include Aging Services Director, Environmental Enforcement Officer, Fire Marshal, Grant & Contract Coordinator, Human Resources Manager, IT & Systems Administrator, Maintenance Superintendent, Museum Curator, Permits/Inspections Supervisor, Social Services Director and Veterans Services Officer. Learn more about your local offices by reading this latest installment of

## ***Spotlight on Polk County:***

### *Aging Services Director*

602 E. Church St. Ste. 145, Livingston, TX 77351

936-327-6830

# Polk County

## **SPOTLIGHT** ON POLK COUNTY: *Aging Services Director, Dee Couch*

The Polk County Aging Services Department proudly serves the entire Polk County area, all 1,058 square miles, with the home delivered meals program, “Meals on Wheels”, and we also operate three congregant sites for seniors in Livingston, Corrigan and Onalaska. Our Department has four full-time ladies on staff to keep us organized and prepare meals and also three part-time ladies that work on site at the Senior Centers. All of us have been with the department for seven to eleven years. We are a self-sufficient department and we enjoy getting to know our clients and their families. We love what we do and the ones we do it for!

The home bound “Meals on Wheels” program currently has about 200 clients, though this number does fluctuate. Under normal operations, five frozen meals, prepared and package on site each week, are delivered weekly to all of our home delivered clients. We also call each home bound client twice a week to check in on them. We’ve divided the county into 5 routes in order to cover the number of miles in the time frame we have to make deliveries. During the COVID-19 Pandemic, we have had to double up on the number of meals delivered and only make deliveries every other week in order to limit exposure to our elderly clients, but we continue to call and check in with each client twice a week. To apply for Meals on Wheels, reach out to the Health & Human Services Commission @ 1-866-449-1919 or call the number on the back of your insurance card and let them know that you want home delivered meals.

Our congregant sites, the Senior Centers in Livingston, Onalaska and Corrigan, are normally open Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM for coffee, games and socializing. Lunch is prepared at the central kitchen in Livingston and we deliver fresh-cooked meals daily to each center for our congregant clients. Currently we have about 100 seniors participating. Regrettably, because of COVID-19, we have had to temporarily close the Senior Centers, but our congregant clients can still come to the centers each Monday from 10:30 AM to Noon to pick up five frozen, well-balanced meals. To be able to eat at the Senior Centers, you must be at least 60 years of age and you must complete an application with our department each year. There is no cost to our clients, but donations are accepted and greatly appreciated!

The Polk County Aging Department is led by **Aging Services Director Dee Couch**. We’re located at **602 East Church Street, Suite 145, Livingston, TX 77351**, and can be reached at **936-327-6830, Option 2**. Our hours are Monday through Friday, 6:00 AM to 2:00 PM, but messages can be left 24/7.

The **Livingston Senior Center** is located at 605 East Abby Street, Livingston, TX 77351, and can be reached at 936-327-6817. Lunch is served Monday through Friday at 11:30 AM.

The **Onalaska Senior Center** is located at 150 Town Plaza, Onalaska, TX 77360, and can be reached at 936-646-5914. Lunch is served Monday through Friday at Noon.

The **Corrigan Senior Center** is located at 209 West Ben Franklin, Corrigan, TX 75939, and can be reached at 936-398-4090. Lunch is served Monday through Friday at 11:30 AM.