

## Article for 062514

### Oil and Gas Development is Upon Us!

Take a look out in the country in the night sky and chances are, you will see a drilling rig lit up like Christmas in Dallas! You may even see two, three, or four nearby!! Check out the Railroad Commission's website and search for our county. You may be amazed at the level of activity that is going on right in our backyards and pastures!

The restaurants are staying busy, local businesses are enjoying the boost in the economy, community organizations and responders are seeing some monetary support from some of the companies, and -- what you may notice more than anything -- it may take you two or three traffic light signal series' before you get your vehicle through the intersection at 75 and 21!

We extend a hearty welcome to everyone who might have found Madisonville due to this recent boom!! I hope you enjoy your stay here -- you may even decide to remain here once all of the exploration slows down -- I did 30 years ago!

We can see the differences in our community on the outside, but sometimes we don't know what is happening behind the scenes to protect you and your families. Oil and pipeline companies must adhere to many different rules and guidelines enforced by regulatory agencies. Many of the rules are very strict and confining; but they are in place for everyone's safety and for the stability or restoration of the environment. Many of these rules are handled by agencies on the federal, state, or regional levels; but did you know that Madison County has adopted rules and guidelines that may affect oil and gas exploration and development in our county?

Companies are required to pull permits for boring under roadways, laying water lines alongside roads, establishing electrical service, putting in septic systems, and/or developing in the floodplain, if their project fits certain criteria. Your county employees work with these companies to guide them through the processes necessary to meet the requirements and continue to develop while considering your safety and the environment. Please feel free to help us spread the word to these companies coming into our community. If we continue to work together, we can protect our families, the environment, and employees of the companies who are working in our area. It's the right thing to do ... so Be Safe Out There!