

...More Classifieds

1st Datalog is Free
 2nd Datalog: \$20
 3rd Datalog: \$50
 4th Datalog: \$75
 5th Datalog: \$100

Meter Testing Fee, if the meter registers has running accurate, or less than accurate: \$125

Returned Drafts/Check Fee: \$30

Bulk Water Rate: \$19.68 per thousand or \$0.83 per barrel

Deposit Fee for Owner/Renter/Commercial Accounts: \$200.00

Late Fee: For every active water meter, a \$5.00 late fee will be assessed on the 15th of each month.

Disconnection Fees

During Business Hours: Starting at \$30, will increase by ten dollars each time the resident is disconnected again.

After Business Hours: Starting at \$45, will increase by ten dollars each time the resident is disconnected again.

Tampering Fee: \$50.00

Water Taps

Tap Fee
 5/8 inch tap: \$1,200.00
 1 inch tap: \$1,400.00 Plus the Cost of a 1 inch Meter
 1.5 or 2 inch tap: \$2,000.00 Plus the Cost of a 1.5 or 2 inch Meter

Additional Fees

With road cut, in addition to the tap fee: \$500.00

Per linear foot after the first 100 feet: \$10/Linear Foot

Sewer Rates & Other Charges 24-24

Residential & Commercial w/ no food processing: \$22.91, N/A
 Commercial w/ food processing: \$95.37, N/A
 Commercial w/ Car wash: \$32.41, N/A

RLISD: \$250.00, N/A
 Courthouse: \$113.50, N/A
 County Park: \$68.68, N/A
 Nursing Home: \$352.18, N/A

Housing Authority: \$13.79 per unit, N/A
 Multi-Unit Residential: \$14.89, N/A

Sewer Late Fee, After 15th of the month: \$2.50

Service Fee (During Regular Business Hours): \$25.00 per hour, Discretion

Service Fee (Outside Regular Business Hours): \$50.00 per hour, Discretion

Sewer Taps

Fee
 4 inch Tap: \$2,000.00

Additional Fees

With road cut, in addition to the tap fee: \$500.00

Per linear foot after the first 100 feet: \$10/Linear Foot

If services are contracted through a third party, the city will forward the total cost of the invoice to the customer.

Sanitation Rates & Charges 23-23

Poly Carts (96 Gallon Plastic Containers)

Delivery/Removal: \$30.00
 Inside City Limits: \$20.21
 Inside City Limits, additional container: \$20.21

Outside City Limits: \$26.25
 Outside City Limits,

additional container: \$26.25
 Late Fee, per container after the 15th: \$2.50

Metal Dumpsters

Delivery/Removal: \$50.00
 Container Exchange for a container with a lock bar: \$89.55

Dumpster Lock: \$14.92
 Dumpster Overage: \$40.00

1.5 yard containers, 1x/Week Pickup: \$43.96

3 yard containers, 1x/Week Pickup: \$70.08; 2x/Week Pickup: \$126.38

4 yard containers, 1x/Week Pickup: \$138.79; 2x/Week Pickup: \$252.11

Convenience Center Rates

Citizens within Municipal Limits who bring their City of Robert Lee Utility Bill: 1 free dropoff

Truck Load: \$30.00
 Truck & Trailer Load: \$50.00

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Calhoun divided “work” into that which was suitable for a white person to undertake and that which was left to enslaved people. Not surprisingly, Calhoun stated that it was unacceptable for a white laborer to perform work that was meant for the enslaved class, lest it disrupt the social perceptions surrounding the division of work. Adams (who stands tall as one of our nation’s most decent public servants) was appalled. Adams wrote that these “confounding” ideas were “one of the bad effects of Slavery” and he told Calhoun that it was a “perverted sentiment” to devalue certain forms of work by limiting them to slave labor.

We have thankfully banished American chattel slavery to the dustbin of history, but we continue to struggle with the roots of Calhoun’s “perverted sentiment” that devalues the goodness of work. The roots of it predate even Calhoun. Berry wrote in 1970 in “The Hidden Wound” that it is an inherent struggle of American history to undertake physical labor only long enough to achieve a higher economic status and then avoid such labor. Treating the avoidance of physical labor as an aspiration naturally degrades such work, if it is only something to avoid and escape. Consequently, this attitude degrades the people and social classes who are left to do the work after others rise “above” it. We have moved past slavery, but we have not moved past the degradation of hard work. Perhaps we never can, because this struggle dates to the literal beginning.

Adam and Eve were called to do the good work of stewarding Creation, but they tried to hit the easy button and exchange good work for “knowledge.” They doomed themselves and the rest of us to lives that became more difficult and a wandering eye that constantly seeks to avoid physical work, especially the good work of caring for Creation. That goes far beyond chattel slavery. When we outsource manufacturing or

production of raw goods to far-away countries with inhumane working conditions? When we demand the cheapest possible goods and services, no matter what that requires? When we exchange human workers for industrial machines or “artificial intelligence”? It all comes from the same root desire to rise above work. When government policymakers incentivize all those things, they may tell you that they value hard work, but their actions prove the exact opposite.

So what should we do? This is no mere call to just “suck it up” and accept a crappy job with terrible pay and no fulfillment. Back to our friend Mr. Berry. In a 2015 essay entitled “Our Deserted Country,” Berry takes aim at the very notion of the word “job”:

“The idea of vocation attaches to work a cluster of other ideas, including devotion, skill, pride, pleasure, the good stewardship of means and materials. Here we have returned to intangibles of economic value. When they are subtracted, what remains is “a job,” always implying that work is something good only to escape: “Thank God it’s Friday.”

We have all heard the saying “if you love what you do, you’ll never work a day in your life.” It is an admirable notion that generally points in the right direction, but it slightly misses the mark. That saying suggests that work itself is the problem, which points back to the Calhounian and Adamic goals of avoiding work. Work itself is not the problem. Work for the wrong purposes and without fulfillment is the real problem. Berry sets us on the right path by distinguishing a “job” from a “vocation.” We should pursue work that is meaningful and worthy of our devotion, skill, and pride. We should encourage and support that sort of work in

others and in society at large. That includes demanding systems and policies that incentivize such work, instead of undercutting it.

Honoring the American worker on Labor Day isn’t worth a plug nickel if we don’t value good work throughout the rest of society, both in ourselves and in others. We were never meant to toil away unhappily in a mere “job” waiting for Friday or retirement. We were also never meant to spend life looking to rise “above” meaningful and pleasurable work, even if it is physically demanding. Humanity has struggled with this since the beginning of time, and American history exemplifies this struggle, but we need not fall victim to those failings in our own lives.

Theodore Roosevelt was correct. Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing. We should honor, value, and pursue that work accordingly.

James Decker is the Mayor of Stamford, Texas and the creator of the West of 98 website and the Rural Church and State and West of 98 podcasts. Contact James and subscribe to these essays at westof98.substack.com and subscribe to him wherever podcasts are found. Check out the West of 98 Bookstore with book lists for essential reads at Bookshop.org/shop/westof98

...School Menus

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Robert Lee ISD

Breakfast

Monday, September 16
 Muffin, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk

Tuesday, September 17
 French toast, sausage, fruit, juice, milk

Wednesday, September 18
 Chicken-n-biscuit, fruit, juice, milk

Thursday, September 19
 Pancake wrap, yogurt, fruit,

juice, milk
Friday, September 20
 Cinnamon roll, sausage, fruit, juice, milk

Lunch

Monday, September 16
 Corn dog, baked beans, french fries, tomato cup, fruit cup, milk

Tuesday, September 17
 Nacho grande, salsa, refried beans, cucumbers apricots, ice cream cup, milk

Wednesday, September 18
 Spaghetti bowl, veggie cup, salad, fruity jello, breadstick, milk

Thursday, September 19
 Asian bowl, egg roll, steamed broccoli, corn, Mandarin oranges, sweet and sour sauce, milk

Friday, September 20
 Pizza, carrot sticks, green beans, fresh fruit, rice crispy treat, milk

Blackwell CISD

Breakfast

Monday, September 16
 Pancakes, bacon, fruit, juice, milk

Tuesday, September 17
 Cereal, fruit, juice, milk

Wednesday, September 18
 Breakfast pizza, fruit, juice, milk

Thursday, September 19
 Biscuit, gravy, fruit, juice, milk

Friday, September 20
 Pop Tarts, fruit, juice, milk

Lunch

Monday, September 16
 General Tso Chicken, tangerine chicken, fried rice, chow mein noodles, chic potstickers (dumplings), spring rolls, milk

Tuesday, September 17
 Philly cheesesteak sub, grilled onions, grilled peppers, tater tots, milk

Wednesday, September 18
 Steak fingers, green beans, mashed potatoes, white gravy, hot roll, milk

Thursday, September 19
 Pizza, corn, salad, milk

Friday, September 20
 Sloppy Joes, chips, fresh baby carrots, milk

