



## Mayor’s Message – January 2021

**Happy NEW YEAR never sounded so good!** Hope you all ended out a challenging year with your family healthy and thankful to see 2020 in the rearview mirror!

### CoVid updates:

We can move forward together with CoVid meeting its vaccine match soon and the hopeful expectation for returning to normal life in coming spring/summer. For the next few months – there are **still safety protocols** as we bring closure to the virus. Hang on a bit longer. We can do this together and be proud of our best efforts. (This is a no joke virus- neighbors have had varying degrees of experience – many with severe flu, breathing, and physical limitations.) Tim Ols, President of the Hill Country Region of Baylor, Scott and White says this:

*While our medical facility has sufficient capacity today, we are seeing a very large number of patients with CoVid 19. Marble Falls hospitalization levels are like those in El Paso and west Texas this Fall.*

Vaccinations will begin soon as Burnet and Llano Counties have been approved sites – and have received doses initially for Emergency Services and first responders, as well as long-term care facility residents. Citizens aged 65 and older fall within the guidelines of next level access – and it is anticipated that CVS, Walgreen, HEB and others will be setting up inoculations by appointment. Our local Bay Pharmacy has made application to be a vaccine provider as well. Details about access will be posted on the city website (see: Emergency Management Services)

The **December HSB Fire Station CoVid testing center** reported (every Friday by appointment): Total tested: 137 Total positive: 18 (overall about 25 identified new in HSBay in Dec); this is not an excessive number, but we want to slow/stop the trend. Please **thank the volunteers** who helped make this rapid result testing available. They gave of their personal time – and put themselves in harm’s way for our benefit.

Llano County cases (below) increased, but with the influx of people arriving over the holidays, and social connections, this was – hopefully – an anomaly.

LLANO COUNTY COVID-19 CASE STATISTICS 12/21/2020				
Cases	Active	Recovered	Deaths	Total Tests
669	114/ 7 HSBay	547	8	7,181

### City Updates:

**Hwy 2147 upgrade is complete** and already makes the feel and safety of our central path more comfortable. As a part of this upgrade, TxDOT seeded the right of way areas along the sides and included **hydroseeding of bluebonnets (at City Hall request)**. The blooms won’t be viable until early spring 2022/23, but we have the promise of a bluebonnet lined road in the future

(hopefully). This alongside efforts to protect butterfly weed will keep the unique beauty of our hill country home special for family, guests, and US.



**Even better** is the news that the DMV has finally responded to requests by City Managers from here and Marble Falls - and has **banned the travel of the dreaded Windmill Blades along Hwy 2147**. Dodging those wieldy loads has been a hazard that we can happily avoid now.

YOUR City Council will hold a full day workshop to kick off the year addressing the results of the **Long Range Planning report**. The Council will take the recommendations from the Advisory Committee (based upon **your survey and interview input** this past year) and identify initiatives for moving our City forward towards 2025. The City Staff will then turn these Goals/Objectives into practical action items (by department) and bring back anticipated costs/community action impact. When budget season begins in April, the Long Range Plan, reflecting the expectations of citizens, will guide the use of taxpayer dollars. All activity plans will fall under the umbrella of the city motto *"preserving the heritage while planning for the future"*.

One area of great pride by all is the fiscal management of tax dollars in Horseshoe Bay. I encourage you to take a look at the **budget video posted on the city website** to help clarify your understanding of how tax dollars are utilized to your benefit.


Remember: **Tree trimming ban begins in February** (thru to July) to help protect especially any danger of Oak Wilt proliferation when beetles are active. Please use these last few weeks of January if you feel you have any cleaning that needs to occur before next season. **Be sure to paint open wounds** – and dispose of Oak tree debris appropriately (see city website).

Deer Management/netting will resume through February after closing for holidays. This process has allowed us to maintain a healthy herd and provide for the safety of citizens. See the city website for details: <https://www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov/171/Deer-Management>

### **Community Updates:**

The LRPlanning is timely as we look forward to the many actions across the community that will arise from the **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Horseshoe Bay**. A diverse committee has worked with the founders of the resort, deeply vested citizens, and community leaders to capture the history from the early 1970s to today. Celebrations will occur throughout the year. Our annual (returning!) 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks will shine even brighter this year with dual enthusiasm. **Jim Jorden** will add to his dedicated works capturing the history of the Church of Horseshoe Bay and the history of the Fuchs House...with a History of Horseshoe Bay publication.

As we move into winter months, remember to **cover those external water faucets** in overnight freezes. The migrating birds have arrived (along with the return of our human "snowbirds") – to all of our delight. Even in the cold, HSBay is a great place to bundle up and get out for a walk, some golf/tennis/pickleball, and other socially distanced engagements. We are blessed to have a home where each season offers us every reason to be thankful for the lives we lead.....hope you take it all in as you kick off a great new year ahead.

 Cynthia Clinesmith, Mayor

City Website - [www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov](http://www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov)