

## **Reflecting on a Year of Accomplishments and Goals for the Future**

As the holidays draw near, many Horseshoe Bay residents will gather with family members and close friends to celebrate and reflect on how their lives have changed over the past year. Likewise, the City of Horseshoe Bay is excited to share its accomplishments in 2025 made possible by the support of our community members, and how those achievements will have an even greater impact on our future as a small but growing city.

The city's new Town Center, located at 9101 W. FM 2147, is nearing completion, with city employees scheduled to move into the building in late January 2026. An open house for the community is expected to be held sometime in February. Many citizens were able to celebrate this imminent success, along with the City's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of incorporation, on October 25. While the building itself was not yet open, residents came out to revel on the Town Center grounds, shopping with local vendors, enjoying delicious food and rousing musical entertainment, and traversing the new Elsie Thurman walking trail.

For the first time in Horseshoe Bay's history, keys to the City were given to several members of the community whose influence has had a major impact on the quality of life that we so cherish. Keys were presented to Eileen Hurd, Douglas Jaffe, Jordan Jaffe, Ron Mitchell, and Kelly Kaatz. A final key to the City made in honor of all Horseshoe Bay citizens will be on display at Town Center when the building opens.

Many local businesses and individual sponsors made the construction of the Elsie Thurman Walking Trail possible, creating a legacy that will benefit Horseshoe Bay for generations to come. A special ceremony will be held during the trail's grand opening, when sponsors will be honored with permanent plaques placed along the path. Details will be available in a future issue of the Beacon and on the city's website. Trail expansion is planned for the future, as the City endeavors to create ways to connect our vast community and create accessibility and recreation opportunities for all citizens.

Also scheduled to be completed soon is the construction of the expanded Horseshoe Bay West Fire Station, a much-needed improvement in space and resources for our hardworking and dedicated firefighting personnel. Among the Fire Department's future goals is the procurement of a fire rescue boat, the first of its kind to be available for use on Lake LBJ. A successful golf tournament fundraiser organized by the Ladies 9-Hole Golf Association and Men's 9-Hole Club on September 11 raised an astounding \$50,000 that will go towards the boat's purchase. Learn more at [www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov/fireboat](http://www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov/fireboat).

In April, Horseshoe Bay launched a new single-stream recycling system at the Recycling Center. Under the new system, residents can combine mixed paper items (newspaper, junk mail, cereal boxes, cardboard) and containers (aluminum and steel cans, glass jars and bottles, plastic bottles) into a single bin or bag without sorting them first. The system saves our citizens precious time and is a more efficient use of taxpayer dollars.

In August, the annual sealcoating of neighborhood streets took place in Horseshoe Bay West. This included the successful overnight sealcoating of Bay West Boulevard, another first in the city's history. The sealcoating program represents sound fiscal stewardship, as every dollar spent on preventative maintenance saves \$4-7 in future reconstruction costs.

A successful Town Hall was held in September at Quail Point Lodge thanks to the generous donation of the venue by the Horseshoe Bay Property Owners Association. Participants learned more about the City's initiative to create a comprehensive plan for balanced growth through 2040. Residents may still provide feedback on commercial and residential development, neighborhood safety, city character and connectivity, and many more plan initiatives by completing a survey, found online at [www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov/survey](http://www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov/survey). The final version of the plan is expected to be completed by June 2026.

In October, a record turnout of neighbors and friends gathered at the Horseshoe Bay Nature Park to observe the gorgeous night sky with the help of the Hill Country Astronomers. "A Starry Night in Horseshoe Bay" celebrated the City's prestigious designation as an International Dark Sky Community, a recognition awarded by the International Dark-Sky Association on November 1, 2015, for our exemplary efforts to preserve naturally dark night-time conditions.

The City also welcomed a new mayor in November. Jeffrey Jones, who most recently served on the Council as Mayor Pro Tem under Mayor Elsie Thurman, was sworn into office on November 10, along with new member Ruben Fechner and returning member Frank Hosea. Larry Morgan, who has served on the council since 2024, is the new Mayor Pro Tem. Members Elaine Waddill and Buck Weatherby will continue their service on the council. All are looking forward to the first Council meeting to be held at Town Center on February 17.

The High Zone Transmission Main pipeline project to enhance Horseshoe Bay's water infrastructure and prepare for future housing growth is nearing its final stages. The pipeline installation is complete, and after pressure tests and final connections are made to the City's high storage facility on Pawnee, remediation to repair roads and curbs will take place. The project is expected to be completed by March 2026.

The City is also proud to provide support for other important community projects, including the renovation of Fox Park and the construction of Mausoleum II.

Our unique lakeside hamlet, set apart by our community spirit, is a place where friends support each other, newcomers are warmly welcomed, and residents enjoy a safe, healthy, and harmonious atmosphere. It is our citizens, who share in the vision for preserving our small-town character while managing development, who deserve all the thanks for making Horseshoe Bay an amazing place to live. We at the City are grateful to you for your continued support. It is an honor to serve you, each and every day of the year, every year! Happy holidays!