



Mayor's Message – October 2020 (early to capture new executive orders relevant to HSBay/Llano Co)

Hello Autumn! Bring on the color, sunny cool days, and faint chill of evenings out! Horseshoe Bay is truly “alive and well” and ready for a beautiful season ahead.

CoVid Update

Good practice by the citizens in **Horseshoe Bay has qualified it for exemption status from required masks.** Governor's Order GA-29 provides for counties who maintain less than 20 cases for over 2 weeks to be exempt from the State mandate if requested by the County Judge. As of today, **Llano county has been approved to join about 70 other small counties effective 9/22/2020.** No other counties near us (except Mason county) are exempt so those traveling in Burnet, Blanco, Lampasas, etc. will need to mask when there. (Note: They are still over the limit cases in Burnet county which includes Marble Falls shopping areas.) Keep in mind that we achieved this status by using good practices – and will lose our status if cases re-emerge.

Businesses have the right to continue to require masks, so pay attention to signage when entering and respect the business owners/customers of that establishment. The HSBay Resort amenities, Quail Point, the Post Office and many of the **businesses with larger customer traffic will be continuing to require masks** to maintain staff and to keep levels low – especially knowing this order could change back and forth over time. To complicate it, **some of our businesses reside in the Burnet County side of our City – and MUST continue to require it.** As a community we have shown how good people working together can accomplish quality living – and we had established a good rhythm that has been working for all. It is truly a personal choice. But be sensitive to neighbors, especially those with compromised systems, when determining whether to wear a mask individually or not in social groups/events. **Where it is required,** please honor this with courtesy (or choose not to go into that setting) as our police department does not need to spend its time responding to disturbance calls around face masks.

While the State uses DSHS (State Health) numbers to determine exemption status, we have found our local authority to be much more accurate (though not fully as data flows slowly from outside the county). According to our local health authority, Dr. Franklin, Llano County has worked hard and has been CoVid low (below 20) for over 4 weeks – with currently only 5 known cases in Llano Co, none in the City of Horseshoe Bay. Dr. Franklin says these numbers:

- Reflect direct contact/verified individuals (no repeat numbers are in local or State counts for those retesting; one case per individual)
- Reflect only verified cases (no 'presumptive' cases – those with symptoms but no test)
- Reflect cases where all contact tracing has been monitored to ensure no spread

Remember to continue to sanitize hands and maintain social distancing where appropriate. **Restaurants have opened to 75% occupancy** – and we are seeking clarification that this may include events where meals are served/catered (wedding receptions, etc.) in similar fashion.

City Update

Your Property Owner Assoc presidents joined in a full agenda discussion with the Mayor. Be sure you are **signed up for your POA updates** as they are a powerful communication network. And thank your presidents for their time – they truly are representing your interests. **PLEASE.....** if you are using Facebook or other networking, do not take it upon your self to share unverified official business information. It causes much confusion as approval does not always come 'til days after official request. **We promise to share information once it is verified/ approved by officials (ex: see CoVid report above).**

Speaking of communications – with weather changes on the way, we MAY get to anticipate more rain. Please **ASSUME that low water crossing gates will be closed** if we get significant rain. You may not always get notice – and can avoid a turn around by taking another route.

The HSBay Business Alliance Board joined the Mayor to discuss how they can be mutually supportive in working on the city's behalf. So much behind the scenes work takes place to ensure the over 40 events occur smoothly. Mark your calendars for the **Fall SHRED day at Ace Hardware (October 12th)** bring your boxes of paper documents, etc. – and stay alert for details about the November Holiday town event – and December Christmas Party. The monthly community/business coffees are back in person, beginning with the September 30th gathering on Wed, Sept 30 at 9 am at Quail Point. The HSBBA did make a determination to honor the **2020 Citizen of the Year, Mary Daniels**, with a continuing status in 2021 since most events this year where she would have been in acknowledgement were cancelled due to CoVid.

The Citizens Emergency Response Team/**CERT classes began**. These volunteers will be prepared to mobilize in the case of a major event (such as the recent fire) to provide for evacuation sites, communication, citizen support efforts, coordination of 1st responder food/water support, etc. When 1st responders are in full action – this CERT group will be critical ground control for all. The **Citizen's Academy**, such a successful in-depth training on the city activity, is delayed for the Fall session due to restrictions on hands on experiences during CoVid.

As outlined in detail in the September message, your council **put forward a budget without tax rate increase (remains at .27)** that takes advantage of our high rating as a city – allowing for us to forecast for the next few years a financially conservative approach to meeting all needs. Your POAs were provided copies of detailed information (also available on the city website) regarding a comparison of HSBay and other comparable city general operation tax rates and water/sewage rates....as well as the impact on homeowners based on home value/water usage. A review of the tax rate history table should make everyone proud as the city's initial start-up 15 years ago of .50 was quickly brought down to .41, .33, and held at .25 for several years until

expanded service needs/roads/water infrastructure/fire trucks, etc. took it to .27 where it sits (and is anticipated to hold). No other city can boast this 15 year fiscal efficiency with the level of services provided for (and expected by) citizens' needs.

Road work continues on track, with completion expected in the spring. The new light signal at Hwy 71 and 2147 will be installed late February/March. The times, they are a changing....

Community Shout Outs

The Phoenix Center reminded us that September was Suicide Prevention month. We often think of personal challenges such as this as happening to others. But Sarah Garrett with the Center noted that "anxiety, depression, and suicidal ideation rates have risen dramatically since the pandemic began". Isolated adults and children of traumatic life events often reflect these overwhelming emotions with no strategies to manage their feelings. Horseshoe Bay is blessed to have **the Phoenix Center** located in a camplike setting (near BSWhite Hospital) to provide treatment and support for children of trauma through counseling, equestrian therapy and family strengthening. Intervention in children provides for more stable adult lives who will contribute to society – a long term benefit for us all. Interested in helping this important work? visit www.phoenixtx.org.

In other news

What a year – we have said good-bye to so many truly wonderful neighbors that it is hard to highlight any singular contributor to our community. With so many talented and generous people we feel blessed as each offered their gifts - and will be remembered with gratitude.

Vote! It matters. Enough said.

Finally –

We are reviewing our **City Website** (www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov) to be sure it is user friendly and full of information valuable to you. Please let us know if there are any areas to improve, information that could be added, or more intuitive links that could guide your access. It is a tool that can keep us all connected on how your tax dollars are working to your benefit.

With Halloween parties on hold this October (and scarier things in the news), it is a missed opportunity perfect for Masked wonders. I hope you will find ways to laugh and celebrate together safely, but fully in the coming weeks. This is a great season to be in HSBay – so **consider a 'hometown holiday'** and explore the possibilities right out your own backdoor. If you are traveling – be safe and hurry home.....we will keep the 'dark sky appropriate' light on!

cc

Cynthia Clinesmith, Mayor

City Website - www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov



for CoVid19 details/county and state actions