



Mayor's Message – November 2020

It's Autumn in Horseshoe Bay....a place like nowhere else as we finally feel the arrival of cooler evenings, slow return to community connections, and a sense of true 'thanksgiving' ahead.

Covid Update

While Horseshoe Bay did experience an uptick in confirmed cases this past month (50% of the 36 identified in Llano Co were in HSBay), it appears that as of this weekend most cases will complete their quarantine. We continue to find that overwhelmingly those identified have mild symptoms that clear up quickly – with no serious hospitalizations. Still, some have had significant scares and we have to look out for each other. **Scott Wesner, Beacon Owner/Editor, thankfully welcomed his dad home** after hospitalization and rehab. Scott has moved to Mason for his son's school – but remains a supporter of this community he loves and serves. He is missed and we are ever thankful for the Beacon as one of our best venues for communication.

Hopefully, we will all commit to safe practices that will return us to the low-zero incidence rates. Especially with holidays ahead and guests from outside – large city exposures – be diligent in your practice. I feel confident in our local citizenry as we have found a way to trust when we can be more relaxed with family and friends we trust pose little threat....and when to be more cautious in mixed groups. Certainly, there will be holiday celebrations – but keep safety in place even as you share the joy of the season. **Ideally, a vaccine is around the corner.**

To help with rapid contact tracing, **the City of Horseshoe Bay will be opening a 'drive thru' testing** (less painful form!) with 15 minute results in the coming weeks (details to follow). On a specified day each week citizens will be able to call and schedule an appointment, then drive by on that date/time, get tested in the car and wait (or be called later). This will only provide for a small number weekly so it will focus on quick turnaround for contact tracing or other immediate needs. Service will expand/decline based on perceived need. Volunteers will be used to assist with the program outside the Fire Department entrance – so if interested and willing to be trained to serve, call or email bbatla@horseshoe-bay-tx.gov at the Fire Station.

Horseshoe Bay is a community of law abiding citizens. Keep in mind that your local businesses are striving to serve all while also meeting their legal requirements imposed on them by the State ordinance requiring masks. Please respect your neighbor/business owners and comply while in their businesses (just as you would wear shoes/shirt when asked upon entering their business). It reflects the character of HSBay and a respect for our police and the rule of law.

City Update

November will welcome a new sitting council...with **the addition of Elsie Thurman who joins** your continuing council and committee members in giving of her time and talent. She has turned over her leadership of the Long Range Planning/LRP Committee work to **Mike Kolar** who will bring a full report to Council in January. Thurman brings her CPA background as liaison to financial activity as **Kent Graham** moves to Mayor Pro Tem. Other council members will continue their work as Communication Officer (**Waddill**), Technology liaison (**Hosea**), and CAPCOG representative (**Rives**) alongside a full plate of city work coming in 2021. The results of the LRPlan with citizen priorities will guide much of the forward actions of the council.

We make an official good-bye to **Jerry Gray** for his six years of service, as well as to **Eric Winter**, Director of Development Services who will be retiring December 1st after dedicating 13 years to ensuring our growth has been well planned and implemented. As part of the transition, we welcome **new Director Sally McPheron** who brings years of experience, most recently in Liberty Hill where she oversaw their rapid expansion (400+ new homes per year). She will work parallel with Eric through November alongside the excellent Development Services team.

Dear Deer – It is time again to manage the health of our deer herd through a trapping program that also provides processed meat to area food banks. After deep study, the city moved to an annual cull program to address the previous starving/disease challenges of overpopulation – and now we have a healthy herd with over 50% reduced road accidents. For more information, go to [city website \(services/Deer Management\)](#).

As new neighbors move in they face our Post Office challenges which is not a City function. Details of how to navigate **postal delivery is, however, available** on the [city website \(see: How do I...tab\)](#). Here you will also find other general information about living in Horseshoe Bay.

Water, water, water....as our system comes upon 30 years, we are upgrading and replacing as quickly as physically and financially possible. Fortunately, the \$6 million treatment plant project is nearing completion (thanks for the patience with the odor in transition!). Many have experienced pressure issues that we believe are now mitigated. Still, there is a deep dive to ensure there are no underlying systemic problems – and apologies go to those experiencing low/no water sporadically. This is a priority promise to be kept. Help by adhering to your irrigation schedule...and don't go beyond 2x a week....for the benefit of all.

Speaking of **Promises Kept**...a note from a caring citizen reminded us of how great it is when a need is identified, plans are developed, promises are made....and kept. As sad as it is to accept the need, we also are glad to see the [traffic signal installed at the Hwy 71/2147 intersection](#) after years of concerns. Habits will take a while for speeders along Hwy 71, so please continue to look both ways before turning even when you have the green light. We did not get the westbound turn lane, but at least the lines are defined better and there is room to pull over to the shoulder before turning. Be safe!

Where is Waldo (YOU)? The City is **asking all residents to update their email/phone contact** information. We have found we have only about 60% accurate information needed to reach citizens for emergencies, (road closure, water outages, pending bad weather, etc.) and for customer service assistance (customer water leaks, holiday trash schedule, brush site closures). Call (830) 598-8741/choose 1, or email ub@horseshoe-bay-tx.gov or go online to airtable.com/shr1CTTNrqrEbER7V to provide your updated contact. Get connected!

Community Shout Outs

Holiday is upon us...literally! The HSB Business Alliance hosts the annual Community Holiday in a 'main street' booths/events on **Nov 19, 5:30-7:30**. Look for details in the paper or on shoplocalhsb.com/events and join hundreds of your neighbors in the fun. This is just one of over 40 events hosted annually for our benefit-thank them by frequenting their businesses.

Thinking ahead the **City Tree Lighting** will continue to evolve and get better than ever. Join the fun on **December 10th at City Hall**. Plan to **bring an ornament to hang for the tree** lighting, toys for tots donation, Santa, music, food truck treats, and a shared celebration of the season. Our little Charlie Brown tree has grown a bit and will be surrounded with laughter and sharing.

Both events will require all to be cautious with safety protocols even with being outdoors!

In other news

Thanksgiving month is the perfect time to highlight a few "shout outs" for charitable works.

Joseph's Hammer is an area non-profit raising funds to build an educational chapel at the county *Women's Center for Criminal Justice* (non-violent offenses). Lives can be touched and changed to re-enter society prepared with both practical and spiritual strength. They have raised 80% of the funds needed for completion and welcome your heartfelt support. Interested in helping? Contact Helen Smith (kobaksmith@gmail.com), a HSBay/Trails neighbor.

Also...the Phoenix Center (77 acre youth trauma/counseling center in Horseshoe Bay) held its groundbreaking ceremony with cheers of area leaders and supporters. They will host their annual **Comfort Food 4 Kids** event non Nov 11th at River City Grille (4-8 pm – dine in or order out) with proceeds benefitting Phoenix Center families. Tickets are \$10 (www.phoenixtx.org).

As we know, there will be LOTS of giving efforts during Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons. **Many will have to forego the fund-raising annual fun events** we have all enjoyed....but the needs they support will continue just as deeply (maybe more so in these crazy times). We are a generous community and I hope all find an opportunity to lift-up others with cash or sweat equity AND count your own blessings.....including **our life so well lived right here in HSBay**



Happy Thanksgiving to you all (and be safe as we Halloween with a different kind of mask!)



Cynthia Cline Smith, Mayor

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