



## Mayor's Message – February 2021

**It's the last month of winter in Horseshoe Bay** though it doesn't even feel like the colder season has ever begun. The milder days have thankfully made getting outside easier and helped us find ways to connect and stay active safely. Still - Mother Nature has fooled us before with a surprise frigid February, even early March....so while I hope you are enjoying this gift of 70 degree days -don't put away those winter sweaters (or begin planting) just yet.

**Speaking of plantings:** Remember that the Oak Wilt infestation becomes high risk soon as beetles will begin activity. **NO TREE TRIMMING** of any trees is allowed within the City from February 1<sup>st</sup> through July 1<sup>st</sup>. Any accidental limb breaks on any trees should immediately be sealed. Any debris from Oak trees should be handled carefully and removed from the city. For questions, go to: <http://www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov/661/Oak-Wilt> for details.

### **CoVid updates:**

Llano County experienced a significant increase in both positive cases and deaths this past month. After some delayed reporting, the most heart wrenching details showed the county move from 13 deaths (as reported the first week in January) to now 38 residents passing due to CoVid impact. Our County Judge and Health Authority have been working diligently to get vaccine for those desiring access. Here is this week's update from them:

*Unfortunately, Llano County received 0 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine this week. We are working with the larger medical providers in the area to try and obtain enough vaccines to cover our remaining 1A personnel (still approximately 120 unvaccinated in the local area). As of this morning, we have approximately 5,500 people on the waiting list in Llano County. We have ordered 7,000 vaccine doses through the state's vaccine portal, but have been given no information on when these will be forthcoming.*

*There has been a trend at the state level for "Vaccine Hubs". The closest is in Gillespie County. See Department of State Health Services' distribution map : [tdem.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=3700a848](https://tdem.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=3700a848)*

**Ron Cunningham, County Judge, is joining with 15 other County Judges to go to Governor Abbott's office** to lobby on behalf of rural counties. We have the capacity for storage, trained staff for vaccine delivery, and established sites for sign up and inoculation so there is no reason rural vaccinations should not be supported. I encourage you to go ahead and sign up on one of the local sites in case this effort is successful. See your City website for overall CoVid info.

For more details on CoVid cases and vaccination sign up sites, go to the Llano County and Burnet County websites. One option for Austin for immediate access is through Seton at: <https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/aK-bCYE5PksgM8y7u0-hCK?domain=seton-covid-vaccine-dose-1.inquicker.com>. Several Horseshoe Bay residents have accessed this successfully.

For Horseshoe Bay, we have been able to vaccinate our first responders and provide for our volunteer CoVid testers. **Testing will continue to be available at the Fire Station on Hwy 2147.** The State notified us/Llano County that our increased cases return us to more restrictions (See letter posted on Llano Co website). Any gatherings are limited to 50% capacity, mandated masks, social distancing. The resort, church, POA, etc. have made significant adjustments in their amenity activities as they attempt to support life experiences safely while adhering to the law. Please help them through compliance as good citizens. Just as we wear shoes to a restaurant as required (when in truth I am not sure my bare feet are dirtier than my shoe bottoms) – let's honor the signage requests of our local businesses/POA, etc. It is what the character of our community does for each other and good modeling of abiding of the law.

### **Council Actions**

The **Long Range Planning Committee** members presented their findings from a year long study including surveys, interviews, and field work. This team did an excellent job of organizing all information into a recommendation of 6 key areas goals/strategy considerations. **Mike Kolar, Brooks Herring, and Dan Gillean** underscored specific commentary and themes around ***Community Vision/Identity, Managed Growth, Internet Access, Commercial and Recreational Amenities, Protection of Environmental Resources/Lake, and focus on Regional Collaboration.*** A common thread through each of these included the need for solid communication plans internally and externally.

Additionally, all noted this plan provides for the importance of drawing upon the talent and background skills of local residents to be solicited for participation on committees and task forces in accomplishing these goals. Already the Parks Committee and Internet Committees are meeting to review next steps. The **internet plan** has moved to a contract with providers and is under review for implementation. This “phase I” effort will lay the groundwork for a more comprehensive scope in the LRPlan to include collaboration with county/regional efforts for Connect Texas and grant support in internet access and speed.

The LRPlan findings will now be reviewed by City staff, outlined for costs/staff needs and potential timing of implementation. This plan will be brought to the Council in March for review and determination of feasibility, costs viability, and priority of implementation. **The final plan will be approved by Council in April** (after posting for community review) so that it might be included in the budget planning for 2021-22. **Citizen input will be welcomed.**

---

**Expanded development in Summit Rock** was approved at the January Council meeting (after being posted/reviewed in September and January). Until January of 2019, unlike the rest of HSBay, Summit Rock had exclusive rights to build as many homes as they chose anywhere in Summit Rock - which meant that a hundred homes (not likely, for sure) could be developed across the community at will. This distinction was because the Summit Rock project was still in development through the original plan where millions were invested by the developers to put in the roads, utility lines, and with a city agreement for the developers to pay impact fees for

expanded water/wastewater treatment. As with the original development in West, Proper, etc – the developer seeks to recoup this investment cost.

There were no negatives experienced with Summit Rock's expansive home build rights during this unrestricted time. But with the city's focus on managed growth, in January 2019, this right to build in Summit Rock was temporarily restricted to mirror other areas in HSBay to a maximum of 2 speculative homes until a clear plan could be developed specific to Summit Rock. This September, investors came back to request a return to more expanded builds, but the council took no action - requiring a more specific plan that could be managed for all. A clarified plan was presented this month and approved by council. It allows for a restricted build of a maximum block of 10 homes in three areas (two gated). This plan is for five years and will be reviewed at that time. The intent is to ensure limited intrusion into the daily lives of HSBay residents overall while also benefitting the Summit Rock community and the City/taxpayers. The developer bears the cost of impact fees on taxpayer infrastructure.

Summit Rock is different than other parts of HSBay as it is still in this owner developer mode (much like Tuscan Village is now). They hoped to recoup the original investment through custom sales/builds, but the market stalled. They are hoping that developing a few blocks of quality homes (ranging in price from \$500s to 1.5 million) will kickstart this so they can then return to the full support of Summit Rock (including the long ago promised club house). The City also invested in the original plan with a structured return of its impact fee (to support increased water/wastewater needs). The selling of additional lots/homes will assist in the city offset of these costs to the benefit of all taxpayers. No residents in HSBay should be directly impacted by this effort except those living in Golden Bear Reserve, Valley Knoll at Juniper Creek, and the Grove. Plans are already in place to establish monitored action plans to minimize any potential intrusion on them.

Other speculative development in HSBay is by builders who buy up lots that have the advantage of already developed roads and utility lines. Our local builders are excellent, and their speculative builds are perfectly appropriate - but the limit of 2 per builder ensures this does not become an expansive intrusion on community members and resources at a fast pace – within established neighborhoods. This managed growth approach by the City limits the 30+ builders to 60-70 speculative building sites at any given time in the community. Even this is a lot of trucks and sub-contractors, etc. moving across our roads and in developed areas, but at least balances the impact while allowing for new resident desires for already built homes.

### **Community Updates:**

It is February and love is in the air! Since most of us have more “things” than we need (and have spent much of our quarantined year culling out items for donation), February “Valentine giving” offers **some unique ways to say “I love you”** to those we prize. One suggestion will be to **make a donation to our emerging Nature Park in the name of a loved one.** You will receive a card indicating a “donation has been made in your name” that you can present to your Valentine. Larger donations (“a piece of the Rock”, “sponsoring a bench”, etc.) will have names



posted on site for pride of citizen support. For details about the Master Plan and other donation options, go to <https://www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov/675/Horseshoe-Bay-Nature-Park> . I already received my early Valentine of a “piece of the Rock” and am delighted with the gesture! Also - what a great “Mother’s Day” option as well. How fun to visit the completed park in 2022 and know that you had a part in making it happen! Contact [stevejordan10@gmail.com](mailto:stevejordan10@gmail.com)

With cold weather come challenges for animals. **PLEASE do not feed strays**, but contact the Animal Control for help in trapping/relocating/re'homing' of dogs and cats. Support for the efforts of local SPCA will be helpful in this effort to care for domestic animals in need. WILD animals have natural instincts for preservation – as long as we don’t interfere with this pattern. **PLEASE do not feed the deer, ducks, etc.** as they need to migrate naturally and forage. Our deer management program will continue through February to cull the herd to support health and balance for them and our community.

We are all weary of a near full year of restrictions, fears of illness, sadness of loss, and frustration at not being able to freely socialize with our friends and neighbors. I have been so proud of the upbeat attitude of HSBayers trying to do their part for the safety of others. Still....we all have our eye on future opportunities to reconnect and enjoy the blessings of our community. I sincerely hope that our March newsletter will celebrate the good news of these options .....where we can all once again play, church, ‘toast’, and share together in this special place we get to call home. **Keep the faith!**



Cynthia Cline Smith, Mayor

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