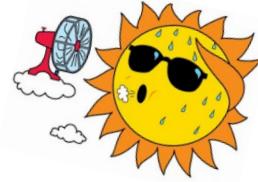




Mayor's Message – August 2021



It's Summer in Texas...but it has gratefully been a unique, slow move to 100 degrees. So thankful for all the summer rain that has helped our trees and plants regain their strength after a tough winter. Remember, **tree trimming w/sealed cuts is now open again** (closed to prevent Oak Wilt from February - June)....thanks for keeping our vibrant natural Hill Country healthy.

City News

Hopefully August is kicking off what appears to be a crisis free year ahead (knocking on wood!). No wildfires, floods, pandemic shutdown, ice storms, or electrical outages have been able to deter our shared resolve .. but we want to encourage you to **be proactive in preparedness**. The City Website (choose: *Department/Emergency Management*) has provided a suggested list of **preparedness supplies** to have in your home at all times. **IF** a real emergency occurs, you will receive eblasts/text messages and info on the website about actions to take (shelters, water access, exit routes, etc). And, as always, look out for your neighbors in need of support.

The pandemic still looms large, but as the recent **Governor Executive CoVid Order** indicates, we are at a point where all understand how to stay safe personally without government intervention. Gov Abbott reminded us that vaccinations remain the recommended preventative action with other care dependent upon individual health levels. According to the officials at the area hospitals, our surrounding counties are seeing an uptick of both infection and deaths – but while Horseshoe Bay is experiencing some continued illness (and we keep these neighbors in our prayers), we are 98%+ clear and healthy....with a likely herd immunity. A few local businesses have had temporary closures due to staff contracting CoVid and as precautionary steps to protect others. We encourage all to keep healthy overall (hydrate, avoid mid-day heat, make wise choices for your own personal CoVid protection, and Vitamin Up!)

The City budget planning this summer has resulted in what will be a recommendation for **no tax rate increase AND no utility (water) rate increase**. The growth and some increased appraisal values (and fiscal management by a great staff) will allow us to continue to provide top level services at a rate significantly lower than any surrounding community. Our continued growth welcomes new neighbors while keeping our small town, healthy lifestyles pace in place through managed planning. You will hear more in the coming months about some needed staff and space expansion for City Hall to keep service levels high in the future, amid progress on our 5 year and long range plan recommendations.

The City will be conducting studies for a city hall expansion as well as a drainage study, utility impact study (legally required every 4 years), and a transportation study to get ahead of anticipated growth in cars/traffic. We will also partner with the POAs, the Resort, and the County in looking for alternative movement throughout, including expressed **desires for hiking paths**. One hope is to align the increase of fiber lines with overlays of hiking paths. This effort

can be largely financially managed through federal funding designed to increase broadband access into rural areas with some shared costs from partner planning.

You may have seen maps of the **ThunderRock development** planned for the northwest corner of Hwy 281/Hwy 71. This project will include mixed use commercial, sports complex, and ultimately 2,000 residential homesites (over time). Several positives can come from this for HSBay. This will provide housing for workforce at affordable prices (though it seems head shaking to think of \$3-400K as 'affordable') while keeping massive development and traffic on the outskirts of our city. There is **a planned road that would eventually run parallel to Hwy 281 and ultimately connect to Hwy 2147** (north of Cottonwood Shores). This helps make the possibility of an exit road we have been advocating for any future Wirtz Dam bridge project a real option – moving traffic east rather than through HSBay. ThunderRock also promises some desired commercial resources/stores within ten minutes (rather than driving into Austin) without negatively impacting our local businesses. State agencies, the City of Marble Falls and Burnet County, and even the school district are all mindful that the huge growth anticipated along the Hwy 281 corridor calls for road/traffic management and service support and they are all working collaboratively to stay ahead of needs.

With over 100 new homes a year, postal service will just get busier. If enough concern/need/problems are shared, we hope to see action in support of Horseshoe Bay being provided a Postmaster for oversight. Don't forget to report any continued challenges with **Post Office delivery** to the federal link: <https://pfluger.house.gov/services/help-federal-agency>.

Community Care Spotlight

In just a few weeks(after Labor Day) **the 7th Annual HSBay Mah Jongg tournament** will open up for registration for the October event at the Yacht Club (sadly delayed from last year due to CoVid). **Over 500 people** come for 2 days of fun play, resort and community experience, AND to support local charities. Over the years, **over \$150,000 has gone to support** the BSW Hospital and now the needs of the Helping Center. There will be both tournament and social play so get involved! (It typically sells out in less than a week!) Not a player? You can still be a part of the event as they welcome sponsorships, donations, and volunteer help. Contact this year's chair, JoEllen Henderson (jeh0227@yahoo.com) for information and to support this great effort!

Finally..... About half of our neighbors have headed to 2nd homes up north or are on vacations to cooler places, the golf course/tennis and pickle ball courts are lazy in the afternoons, roads seem eerily less traveled, even lake activity is slowing, and the rattlesnakes are out (be careful!). But...**come September, we will welcome our neighbors back home** where HSBay is still the best place to be for a daily quality of life. Be safe out there!



Cynthia Clinesmith, Mayor

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