



Mayor's Message April 2022



Spring has arrived in Horseshoe Bay.....with planting, sprucing up, and outdoor gatherings visible across our neighborhoods (and, of course, lovely but pesky barn swallows have returned to nest – though they do consume tons of mosquitos!) Time for all of us to shake off the doldrums of winter and get out and enjoy the bounty of Horseshoe Bay activities! Join a shared interest group (see “things to do in HSBay” on the city website) – or stroll through the tons of member resort activities in their Spring Guide.

City News

SAVE the DATE ! **TOWN HALL Meeting/ Wednesday, May 18th (3-4 pm)** Come hear the details of the new City Center planned for 2023. We are excited to share the plan for the crucially needed facility to relieve overcrowding at current City Hall (which will still house several departments). The new facility will be a point of pride for city services and resident access to city actions/events (though conservative in scope). The Bond (vote in November) also includes essential upgrades to the West Fire Station to support growth throughout. Details of cost, usage, and construction schedule will be fully available.

The **TOWN HALL** also includes ‘stations’ by each department (fire, finance, utility, etc) so you may meet your city staff, get info (and TREATS), and ask questions specific to your needs. The brief presentation will give an overview of current areas of focus for the City – specifically maps of projected, managed growth and service upgrades for more efficient use of tax dollars. The added bonus is the opportunity to mingle with neighbors and focus on supporting all our community needs together. **COME JOIN US!**

Internet update.....Hit the **PAUSE button** (with the same frustration we share!) They tell me internet is not a four letter word...but I have my doubts. It has been a “be careful what you wish for” three-year experience as we have negotiated with (begged) internet providers to join us in getting dependable service throughout the City. An excellent plan has been reached (with signatures by all parties and much attorney engagement! – city/county, resort, Vyve, Zeecon, Spectrum). Even with the selling/re-negotiating delays of companies changing hands mid-discussion, we ended February feeling poised for implementation. **NOW we are facing challenges as contract labor costs are exorbitant** (whether due to increased fuel/materials cost or ‘just because’). The likely reality is that they are discovering they underestimated the challenge we have faced all along - the difficulty of trenching through our rock and hill undulation is much greater than they anticipated. We cannot have them trench across our roads at each house (essentially creating speed bumps every 100 feet...and disrupting the integrity of our road infrastructure which has cost millions in taxpayer dollars) nor can they trench along the easements through existing irrigation lines/driveways, landscapes, and rock installations. Our agreed upon ‘micro-trenching’ answered the challenge (lines between the concrete ribbons and actual road that could be sealed with stable infill).....but now the cost analysis is not feasible (thousands per house passed).

So..we are revisiting ways to make the trenching and dedicated lines work, but **in the interim** will move forward with getting an antenna on Cap Rock that will provide wireless broadband to at least half of those without any current line of sight access (Applehead, West, Matern/Wenmohs, etc). Of course, wireless still doesn’t allow for those homes built low, behind hills and deep wooded areas. This is where dedicated fiber has been the goal (and to all to provide faster/stronger signals). We will be looking at other potential antenna sites to try to get as many homes covered as possible. **We know this is crucial.**

A full out celebration is scheduled for the upcoming **CITIZEN ACADEMY graduation (10th class)** and reunion for all former graduates (over 100) for April 14th. This group of deeply informed neighbors is a

blessing as a conduit for information (to you and back to us) and a resident resource in times of emergency response. We will post the names of all graduates in the Beacon so you can join us in thanking them for taking the time to learn and provide communication on city functions.

I often take for granted people have **access to all information** they need. We are working hard on communication (upgrading website, weekly CITY CORNER articles, CIVIC READY outreach). But...for your more in depth knowledge – the **City Council Agenda packet is posted on the Fridays** before each Council meeting has detailed updates on the activities in each department of service. You can see the goals, progress, and actual up to the month data specific to activity such as number of police/fire/animal control calls, financial management, new home permits and water safety success. You will feel proud and served! Go to <https://www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov/agendacenter> .

Targeted Communication -I continue to welcome opportunities to come to neighborhood gatherings/POA meetings if needed so that the unique needs of each community are heard. Our volunteer committees have set goals for the coming year and will be reviewed. We also have upcoming meetings with your POA presidents (April 21), Realtor Assn members (April 26) and Ministerial Alliance (all four churches within HSBay). May will bring an opportunity to connect with the Business Alliance, and the Homebuilders Assn later in June. I meet with the Resort leadership monthly to identify ways we can support the overall success of the area and leverage shared costs on projects. (One recent consideration a designated bicycle lane on Horseshoe Bay Blvd – built wide enough for this – so the bikers from resort guests and residents accessing the hotel/yacht club can be accommodated.) These contacts help provide essential input from all stakeholders as we enter budget workshop planning in July where we will continue to also implement the Long Range Plan developed by resident surveys.

Speaking of realtors/builders/growth. We have tried to be sensitive to the challenges of our local builders and escalating home prices (not just here but all across the State/country) as they face material delays and workforce shortage. But with this has come an excessive burden on our developmental services team who process/approve permits from start to finish. As with other cities, it is expected that this department should be predominantly funded through permitting costs (flow through) with some tax payer supported local services. HSBay has the lowest permit fees (significantly so) across the region – in addition to having the benefit of quality roads, utility infrastructure, and high level of services that make building here attractive to an influx of new builders/developers. **You will see the Council address recommendations for increased permit fees** to better align costs between builders and our local tax base. Much of the new growth will be in developments along Hwy 71 that will also help offset the impact on drainage, fire/police service, and utility infrastructure that will welcome new neighbors at a manageable pace for our infrastructure management. We also see interests developing for light commercial for expressed needs such as the potential for an Assisted Living venue, retail, and local service providers which is welcome but will also assume collaboration in overall impact on resources.

Finally – it has been a tough end to winter as we have said goodbye to so many long term residents through life celebrations. With Spring and the Easter renewal messages and upcoming Spring Fling/Earth Day at Quail Point April 22/23, we can take joy in welcoming new neighbors, emerging wildflowers, hot air balloons and making new memories as we golf, hike, garden, tennis/pickleball, boat/fish....and enjoy the bounty of our outdoor socials. **What a life it is to be a part of Horseshoe Bay!**



Cynthia Cline Smith, Mayor

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