



Mayor's Message July 2022

Summer is in full sunshine mode...and the heat is in all our thoughts! Hope you are enjoying some lake/shade/and hydration as we dig in for another hot July Texas tango!



City News

The question on all our minds - what's our water security?! To help us better understand a confidence in water availability for us (and all along the Colorado River from North of Kingsland through Austin down to the agricultural fields) – an **LCRA Workshop** is being scheduled for July. **POA Presidents and Citizen Advisory Committee members will be invited** (a group of about 40-50 to keep Q&A manageable) to hear details of the LCRA long range plan (which includes creation of water basins, revamping water to agricultural fields, encouraging off river water sources, etc.). The 2nd half of the meeting will be devoted to identifying any actions the City of Horseshoe Bay specifically can take for long-term secure water access. Citizens are encouraged to send your LCRA questions to your POA president. The powerpoint and summary of the LCRA report, and Q&A responses will later be put on the city website (with a follow up article in the Beacon). **We will explore options to 'zoom' into the meeting** for those interested in listening.

Water management/awareness/update: As we approach a review of our water capacity, the city is negotiating with LCRA for new levels of 'firm guarantee' water for our community. As all cities along the Colorado River are in similar updated contract reviews, the City must forecast anticipated growth through 2042, with most of that being along Hwy 71 as much of the internal lots are in current estimates. Horseshoe Bay is in great access position, having earned good standing with LCRA for maintaining a Stage 2 drought plan since 2015 (above the required lesser plan of Stage 1) and receiving the River Heroes award for conservation practices such as Water Smart, intake processes, and utility oversight. The recent audit of our system supported current City plans already in progress and offered some additional new suggestions to assist.

The city will hold new developments along Hwy 71 responsible for their part of water quantity requests. Our contract is for volume of water only so statements that growth is costing the individual homeowner more are inaccurate. Our rate of pay is the same as all 'firm water' customers along the Colorado River not based on our growth. Not all of the contracted water will be used immediately by developments, but it is true the city must still pay for 'unused/reserved' water (at a ½ rate). So even though the new developments won't need the water for 2-3 years, the city will hold it in place for them and they will pay for their held reserve.

Speaking of lake oversight (which will be part of the workshop), be aware that sadly the **zebra mussels are now prevalent in Lake LBJ** (traveling in from infested lakes and visitor boat launches). The city proactively prepared and installed copper ion generation which prevents them from attaching/dying off/infusing drinking water with odor. They are not toxic, just nuisance. Waterfront homeowners may begin finding them in your irrigation pipes (if you take water from the lake) so be sure to check and clear to avoid clogging.

TREES are a bounty for our beauty and wildlife canopy! Thank you for adhering to the tree policies on saving heritage trees and preventing oak wilt. **July 1st will open the doors for cutting/trimming to begin again** where needed. Remember if you cut an Oak (really any tree), seal the wound with black/brown paint. You must get approval from the city if you intend to remove a protected tree (see city website for list) even from an undeveloped lot– and any developing sites require a tree survey submission to identify trees necessary for removal for the building project footprint. **Together we will keep the health of our greenspace vibrant!**

The City hosted a **meeting with builders** on June 28th. All builders must be registered to work here (with criminal background checks, demonstrated bonding and insurance, and use of certified sub-contractors). If a builder has repeated code violations, they can be suspended. This meeting had an open dialogue, thanking the vast majority for care in their work site, respecting neighbors and limiting intrusion, full compliance with ACC permitting – and shared commitment by their industry to maintain the HSBay standards. The market is leveling off (only 3 Spec homes in May; 3 in June other than grandfathered areas (Summitt Rock, Sienna Creek, Tuscan Village) and pace of building is on track for 98% of custom built homes. Any extensions beyond allowed build timeframes have a fine associated.

Corrected information: The June City Council meeting clarified some inaccurate information recently posted in the Beacon Opinion section. Of primary import was clarifying that there were a couple of actions recommended that are not legal for a city (charging builders who don't live here a random fee; requiring ACC permit stamp – though we have no buildings that do not voluntarily provide this as requested). The article also indicated developers are asking citizens to pay for their infrastructure which is never true - they pay for their own water/sewer lines and roads in addition to an impact fee for hooking into our system. Several recommendations were made that are already in progress by the city (Drainage study, low cost bonds, review of tap fees). Clarification around road impact was discussed, noting that the city does not own/maintain roads in Escondido, Summitt, Tuscan Village, Applehead Island, or Enclave. Roads maintained by the city in other communities are paid for through their POA dues and sales tax. Main roads such as Bay West Blvd, Thanksgiving Mountain, Hi Circle, Golden Nugget that are used by all will be reviewed to determine if increased volume indicates a more frequent maintenance any may result in an increased tap fee paid by all new homes. The city has already doubled the building permit fees. We were all disappointed with the doomsday tone of the Opinion letter which misrepresents the amazing beauty and care of our City. As was cited in the council meeting – HSBay has more than tripled in size over the years (since many of us moved here), but careful growth management has ensured this growth has remained aligned with the high quality standards of life we all experience – and value - today.

July will bring the council budget workshop for 2022-23. All departments honor the commitment to not the raise tax rate – especially in a year of growth that allows for funds for some delayed/long range needs. There will be increased salary adjustments as our recent survey shows we are below our comparison group (and staff insurance rates will increase), but all other needs align with a conservative budget so the official tax rate set in August will remain the same as now. The new budget will be posted on the website when adopted in September.

WOWSA applause goes out to the many caring citizens who stop by to donate time, funding, or treats to our incredible staff throughout the year. But as you probably saw in the Beacon this month, we have to make a special note of the generosity of **Mike and Cheryl Foster's \$25K** donation to upgrade our lake police patrol boat to benefit all of us (an extension of their annual project donations). Lake/boat safety will be the focus of the City Corner Beacon article with hopes that the patrol boat will have limited demand. Also saluted is **the first responder "angel" Carol Keiffer** who has long been a supporter of the police/fire programs. Even in her passing, she will touch lives for a decades through a Foundation of \$500K to support first responder education, family trauma intervention, and unexpected cost supports. And we are all grateful for the outpouring shown for the **Uvalde victims** – where our recycle supt Juan resides – through donations to assist with family transition managing this trauma. We are so blessed with neighbors who pay it forward in so many ways.

Community News

Get out that **Red/White/Blue American Pride as the 4th of July Parade kicks** off the day long family events at Quail Point (THANK YOU volunteers!). **Controlled Fireworks** are scheduled for July 2nd (Blue Lake), 3rd (Escondido), and the 4th (Resort). These are shot over lake/golf course with supervision. Alerts are going out to remind those with sensitive pets.

Important to recall: **No personal fireworks** – we are in a drought!



A special **THANKS SO MUCH** to our HSB Business Alliance for another fabulous series of Summer **Boogie at the Bay**. Great music and fellowship (with shade and libations and a gentle lake breeze to make us all feel the 'groove' of HSBay!). **SHOP LOCAL** to thank our businesses!

Many of our 'snowbirds' have (perhaps smartly) headed for cooler temps – but the Texas Girl in me finds some comfort in the Hill County summer sizzle....and hope all of you staying near with me are finding ways to make fun in the sun/shade memories in our wonderful hometown. Fall season will be here faster than we know....in the meantime – HYDRATE and be careful with fire!



Cynthia Cline Smith, Mayor

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