



## Mayor's Message – February 2023



February is starting off true to its claim as 'the' winter month for HSBay – so dig in for the coming weeks, be prepared for unexpected high/lows in weather, and **take a moment in the month 'of love'** to reach out to your family, friends, neighbors, special loved one. Ours is a city of caring for one another....and the community we share.

### City News

- Speaking of caring, it's an opportunity to care for our most vulnerable; if you know of elderly/disabled in need of 'a lift', pass on these supports:
  - There is a **HOP** available for **free transport for elderly/disabled** to go to doctors, grocery store, pharmacy, etc. Reach out through the Hill Country Transit District (800-791-9601 ext. 5005) – or County Commissioner Peter Jones
  - **Telecare is still available through the Fire Department** so encourage those living alone to put their name on the 'check in call list' for daily contact.
  - **Waste Management** will assist in moving trash cans from near the garage to the truck...with hopes that neighbors will keep an eye out and return it for those in need. Call the utility department for info. We ALL can do our part to care for the community by **storing our own trash can as expected** – out of sight after pick up. **Notify the code enforcement** if weekenders/rental guests are not complying/understanding they can transport their trash to the reclamation center when leaving town early; should never leave trash can out for days prior to scheduled pick-up date. This invites critters AND potential for trash overturn, accidents.
  - **Check on neighbors (new to city and/or aging in place).** The isolation of winter can be hard – an offer of a drink/warm meal/invite to socialize lifts us all.
  - **AND** care for yourself. Be sure you have water, candles, car safety items, cleared slippery walkways, emergency contacts. If we know anything...it's that we never know winter in Texas (hoping for a calm year, but **Texas Weather is a jokester!**)



Remember that we **DO recycle at the reclamation center**. Aluminum/metal cans, cardboard, office paper, newspaper, magazines, glass, plastics are accepted, as well as used motor oil/filters, antifreeze, batteries. NO construction materials (carpet/wall board, etc.) or electronics. **Go to: <https://www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov/639/Recycle-Center-Services>** for info on disposal of hazardous materials.

- Caring is also essential for the community 'quality of life' greenspace we value:
  - Notice the signs reminding us Feb 1<sup>st</sup>-July 1<sup>st</sup> is **NO OAK TREE TRIMMING** to prevent Oak Wilt potential during the months of the beetle activity (boring into open wounds), or root transmission if trees are closely planted. Do NOT cut Oak during these months (and if a branch breaks, quickly seal the wound). For detailed info, go to **<https://www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov/661/Oak-Wilt>**; we have been fortunate to protect our canopy through resident vigilance. **THANKS.**

- Our **Dark Skies Community certification was renewed** after an on-site assessment review. Even with our growth, our practices of downward lighting with limited lumens keeps brilliant starry nights overhead for full enjoyment. If you see a new neighbor installing flood lights or upward lights, maybe not aware of the goals of our rural lifestyle, kindly point them to the City for direction.
- We all look with loving memories to those lost this past year – and some of the experiences they shared. The Rudd House on Bay West Blvd was an iconic symbol of days watching fireworks, starry nights viewings – and a family creating neighborly bonds...but with the passage of time, new owners embrace change. I am hopeful that all hold the memories of the Rudd home in their hearts (no longer in the brick and mortar).
- We will **host the POA presidents again in February** and encourage you to reach out to your POA if you have questions/suggestions you want brought forward. Among the items to be discussed are components of the Transportation Plan under consideration as the citizen/city staff committee **seeks citizen input** in future options.

Already **traffic counting is under way** to get a sense of current road loads at key points in the city so determinations can be made for safety and ease of travel. At-risk points are being reviewed for line-of-sight – and pathways for golf cart/hiking/biking are being explored. With the future concern of a new dam bringing traffic our way, the committee is examining the tolerance of lowering the speed limit (which would significantly deter outsiders from using Hwy 2147 as a cut through transit). Considerations for lowering the speed limit to 35 mph (from Bay West Blvd to Horseshoe Bay Blvd) opens up the legality for golf carts to travel along the Hwy route – a potential plan to get residents access to business services and other parts of the city without car travel (thus also reducing car traffic). A lowering would amount to about a 4-minute difference in traversing the length of the city for us. Discussions with TxDot and varied funding mechanisms will be explored for all options.

- The year kicked off with a January workshop that heard from all citizen committees and set the action plan for the remainder of the fiscal year. A report on the **1<sup>st</sup> phase of a city wide drainage study** – Tiger Creek – provided guidance for managing water flow through a key section of the city...and informs ‘impact study’ fees for any new developers along Hwy 71 that would create drainage into our city. The next phases of our study will take on Pecan Creek, and the 3 remaining smaller watersheds. This will map the needs of the City for decades – with part of the \$500K cost underwritten through federal grant funds.
- Requests for Qualification/**RFQ applications will be accepted this month** for architects for the City Center and upgrades to West Fire Station. Special thanks to some residents with building/architecture backgrounds who are lending their experienced eyes to the review committee prior to selections – to get the best qualified and best pricing. Once a contract is in place, the architect/team will work with the project manager for the coming months to engineer detailed plans and final costs. Plans are to sell the approved

bond package in May after tentative valuations are provided. We continue to carry a low debt along with an exceptional credit rating – all to the benefit of our tax profile. The **Town Hall in May** (details to come) will give more comprehensive updates.

### Community News

- It's City News...but impacts us all. We are celebrating our Finance Director's 'time of life' retirement as she heads off to grandparent and travel. **Margie Cardenas has been an exceptional steward of the taxpayer dollars**, guiding budgeting with conservative management while maintaining the high AA+ rating of fiscal accountability standing. She is graciously agreeing to assist in transitioning our **new financial director, Chris Thomas**, who comes to us from the City of Manvel, Tx. relocating this month.

Also joining us in February will be the **new City Councilman, Jeff Jones**, who has been appointed to replace the vacated seat of Randy Rives (who moved to Tyler, Texas). Jeff brings his experience as an attorney, his passionate leadership in the church community, his love for our city, and a proven record of collaborative action on behalf of residents. Please thank Jeff for taking on this volunteer effort alongside a current quality council – and his wife, Candy, for sharing his time with us and supporting his efforts.

- A meeting is scheduled with Mayor Orr of Cottonwood Shores to continue discussions (along with Burnet County Commissioner Dockery) regarding the potential Wirtz Dam – and a needed traffic flow plan so cars do not move through HSBay. A major road takes years of planning (and political push) to get funding and approvals from all entities. Our 3-year discussions are being amplified by the **anticipated February opening of the new gas station/convenience store** in Cottonwood Shores/CWS. Additionally, developers are beginning to negotiate for development of the ranches across from the CWS restaurants. The potential for congestion underscores a needed exit route in that area.

Time to 'hunker down' for potential winter....and enjoy some Valentine moments of love. As outdoor 'play' time slows a bit, take advantage of small social moments to welcome our new neighbors, relax and reflect, and **remain grateful for the life we share in HSBay**.



Cynthia Cline Smith, Mayor

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

