



## Mayor's Message – April 2023

Well...we don't have to wait for April showers to bring May flowers! HSBay is ablaze with bluebonnets and the wildflowers will soon follow. The city seeded the main thoroughfares a couple of years ago and nature has finally rewarded us with hill country vistas.

### City News

- **Spring cleaning is beginning everywhere.** You will see work beginning to patch roads in designated sections of the city. This should not create road closures, but don't be startled to find trucks, road work, and 'back up beeps' for a couple of days. They **WILL** impact travel a bit in June when seal coating begins. Residents will be notified by street with details. Also, 1.3 miles of new ribboned roads will be put in for qualified areas.

You won't see city mowers out until after wildflower season and to allow the butterfly milkweed seeds to drop, but know that lots that have been contracted with the city will be mowed before 4<sup>th</sup> of July tourists and dangerous dry grasses emerge.

- **Money well spent!** We were blessed with some federal funding last year that has helped with several big ticket items. After the 2021 power outages, part of the funds (about \$500K) was used to purchase large generators to ensure our utility systems continued if electrical power was lost. This week we got to 'test' this accidentally when **PEC lost power** that could have shut down our water pumps/wastewater treatment for a while, but the generators allowed for an automated shift that kept all systems whole. Some homes lost electrical power – and we asked PEC to communicate with their **nearly 400 customers losing power** about status in those areas impacted (mostly in West). Several of the PEC transformers 'popped' and **created small fires** which were immediately addressed by the fire department. Thankfully, the winds were down, grass is not dry, and our first responders are prepared.

**Civic Ready updates were sent out.** Note: If you are not enrolled in Civic Ready – [you are missing communications](#). Go to the city website to sign up! [www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov](http://www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov) (scroll down to Civic Ready) and choose which notifications you want sent to you.

We also saw the **\$1 million federal dollars (ARPA) get the long-awaited internet plan in place**. Fiber is running to the three new tower sites, as well as our water treatment facilities. This will prevent the lost signals we get when our primary service in Austin/Dallas has problems. Now the fiber will keep our points of service connected (though extreme weather can still impact wireless signals within the city).

- You may have seen **speed monitors near Bay Market**. TxDot is measuring the average speed of drivers in the commercial area (between Bay West Blvd and Summit Rock Blvd)

to determine the potential for golf cart crossings as a part of our Transportation Plan. The committee presented its concept plan at the March council meeting and will follow up with data/more detailed recommendations over the coming months. An application for \$5 million+ (if received) could kick start the golf cart path efforts next year. These paths would NOT be on/directly along Hwy 2147, but would allow for movement throughout the community to amenities, commercial resources, and golf courses. The overall goal is to reduce the amount of internal city car traffic on Hwy 2147 and allow for ease of pedestrian, bicycle, golf cart access throughout.

- Construction is settling down, though new lots purchased during last year's 'gold rush' are beginning to break ground. **Some of the homes that have set dormant** (to neighbors' dismay) mid-construction are now back on track for completion. A recent meeting with over 50 area builders found a highly professional group focused on meeting the high expectations of our city. The showcase of new software for ease of permitting, collaboration with LCRA, and upgraded communications will make the building experience – and efficiency of completion better for all (buyers included!).
- We will graduate another full class of **Citizen's Academy** attendees this month. Feedback continues to be very high from all who note their understanding of the city services and how their tax dollars are spent has been an exceptional use of time. The next academy will be in the Fall (sign-ups in August). Thank you to all our citizens who gave up their time to get informed (and become resources for neighbors) and the 150+ prior graduates (many of whom have stepped up to serve on city committees/council).
- Some confusion at the recent council meeting arose over understanding costs incurred when a development project permit is requested. Major projects (not simple remodel projects at a home) that impact our water systems, drainage, or roads require an application to **the DRC (development review committee)**. This committee includes key city staff depending on scope of project (often police, fire, development services, public works, and utilities – potentially a contracted engineer) to ensure taxpayers do not cover the cost of any work. This review cost \$1000 (see existing ordinance/fee schedules). After the review, any cost needs are identified, such as water tap if irrigation system being installed, road cuts, drainage management, etc.

In a recent review of a large scale HSB POA project – one that will definitely uplift the entry areas for which they are responsible – the DRC determined that drainage is not impacted and that the water tap fee (\$3,400) could/will be waived if the POA uses water conservation demonstration garden practices (native grasses, etc.). An irrigation permit of about \$250 will be required as it is for any new irrigation system. There are deposits made by all development projects that the city uses to pay any third-party inspections or required work (1% of total project, with refund of any funds not needed for inspections/work). It has been determined that the anticipated total cost of review, inspection, permit fees for the over \$200,000 project by the POA will be under \$1,500.

This would, we assume, be paid by the POA member maintenance fees – just as they are by the POAs in The Trails, The Hills, Applehead Island, Bay Country, etc. This allows for consistency in quality management across the city and shared resources.

The city is reviewing how it might partner with all owners along Hwy 2147 in supporting efforts to implement the image corridor (berms, native plantings, setbacks, consistent fencing/hill country styling, etc.). Projects such as upgrades of the varied entry spaces along this corridor are examples of what could be included in this review.

### **Community News**

- Speaking of the HSB POA, don't miss the community wide **April 1<sup>st</sup> Art Festival** (Saturday, 3-7pm ) will be held lakeside at Quail Point. Bring your blanket and come enjoy the fun connections with neighbors! Be sure to thank the POA for their support of community fun – and consider volunteering for the later season 4<sup>th</sup> of July event! Great way for new to town residents to get involved – and give back a little.
- There is also a great **Art on Main event (April 24-29)** in Marble Falls with many of our HSBay artists participating. All will miss our local artist Marta Stafford's beautiful shop in downtown MFalls as she closes this month and enters a much-deserved retirement! Go show your support – and maybe add to your art display at home!
- Don't forget the **Nature Park 'artistry'**. The wildflowers and migrating birds are providing a tapestry for you as you stroll through with friends (two or four legged!). **Photo Ops!** (Remember to make a donation, if possible, to keep this gem maintained!)
- It's **Easter** season and there will be activity abounding at the churches and the resort. One blessing to enjoy is the Remembrance Garden at the Church at Horseshoe Bay, full of native plantings, wildflowers during the **Stations of the Cross** walk with guided meditation opportunities. (Open to all during daylight hours, located behind the church.

With over 200 new homes, we know we have lots of new neighbors ready to shake off winter and get engaged in all our community has to offer. **Reach out to each other** for golf pairings, game groups, Nature Park strolls, new exercise classes (at POA and resort), lunch and book club gatherings, church.....or a simple back porch chat over coffee/happy hour drink. Mainly....just **get out and enjoy the beauty we share** in this splendid spring season in Horseshoe Bay



Cynthia Cline Smith, Mayor

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