



Mayor's Message – April 13, 2020

The City of Horseshoe Bay is CoVID19 free! Our only two confirmed cases have, joyfully, received full clearance from doctors. Thanks to the diligent safety practice they and all of you/businesses have shown, we can proudly say we are positive examples of shared responsibility working. We do remain concerned and prayerful for the rest of our State/Country even as we celebrate. It is essential that returning 2nd homeowners or family visitors are diligent about “Stay Home” protocols. Similarly, **employees of essential businesses** (such as construction) must use the protocols – especially if they are going to be using our local stores such as grocery, gas, pharmacy, hardware where citizens are exposed.

As of today, Texas reports 133,000+ tested (90% by physicians/private clinics); 13,827 confirmed cases (1,338 hospitalized); 286 deaths. Our prayers/hearts go out to those impacted with loss and illness. We find encouragement as a near flattening curve begins in some areas signaling a potential for gradual return to healthy lives, though with continued modifications for contagion precautions. The final safety net will be the development of a vaccine, hopefully in the coming year to eighteen months.

Governor Abbott held a press conference on Monday, April 13th with a priority for small business. For our local employers, we are hopeful that these initiatives along with local efforts will help sustain them.

- **\$55 million** being made available to small businesses through **loans** (some forgivable; www.liftfund.com) to keep staff employed and transition back when reopening occurs
- **Unemployment clerks** (working 7 days a week) processed over 1 million claims; first checks went out on Monday (with enhanced amounts, days of support, access by self-employed)
- **Stimulus checks** began arriving in direct deposits on Monday. irs.gov/refunds for direct deposit option if you don't want to wait on paper mail – and qualification standards.
- **An economic team** will begin work this week to develop a staged reopening of businesses, along with an increased testing program. (Note: More testing WILL reflect more confirmed asymptomatic cases which doesn't mean there are more cases, just more identified - to inform decisions about openings and social practices). **See full video of Governor's press mtg online.** For now, **the Stay at Home order remains** in effect. Encourages face mask in mixed settings.
- Decisions about **school reopening** this year to be reviewed after next week.

We have a conference **call scheduled with Gov. Abbott on Friday, April 17** – likely with a focus on the new task force and considerations for staged re-opening. Whatever the Governor's next order, we are prepared to move forward with full safety measures.

In other news:

So many **activities of generosity** are being undertaken in our community – support for the medical providers (lunches, sewn masks, video messages posted to Lori.Sipos@bswhealth.org), our first responders (with gift cards that can be used at local businesses... a win-win), food banks, online lessons for students, and individual outreach to isolated or fragile neighbors. If you know of other 'angels unaware', share with the Beacon for us all to recognize/applaud (maybe join in).

BUT...be careful. Sadly, in these times we do have those who take advantage of generosity. **There are scams** – even some identified in our own community – of those who will ask for investment or donations unauthentically, so get verification from others/organizations before funding.

It is CENSUS time. This data is important for us as a city/county in funding, support, voting districts, and planning for the coming decade. **Please** go to www.2020census.gov. HSBay has a challenge as specific Census I.D. forms cannot be mailed to PO boxes. Those with only POBox addresses will not receive a form and need to go to website, select “Start Questionnaire”, scroll down to “I do not have a Census ID”, then complete survey using your physical address. Kiosk mailboxes will receive ID #s in mail. It takes less than 10 minutes to complete, is confidential, and will help chart our county (and country) future.



Of important note (bittersweet) for us all: **Eric Winter, the veteran Development Services Director** announced his retirement effective Dec. 1st – with a gracious willingness to serve through the coming budget/planning cycle while a Director search begins. As the undeniable “gentleman” leader of our city team, Eric has provided a calm commitment to establishing the foundation of ordinances/plan for our city’s quality community development. He will be missed by all....and will fully be celebrated closer to his actual retirement date.

Next week I will update any actions reported by the Governor regarding reopening or staged return to normalcy. Following that, **my reports will be monthly beginning May 1** unless there is an urgent message to report. Sign up for *CivicReady* on city website for emergency alerts (scroll down on 1st page).

Please always feel comfortable contacting me, the City Manager (Stan Farmer) or any of the City Council members (see website contact info) if you have questions/concerns/idea. This is a true team effort – of which you are a key member.

I hope you carry the message of hope from the Easter season forward as we head into May with more spring explosion, and the possibilities for a gradual return to some normalcy on the horizon.

cc

Cynthia Clinesmith, Mayor
City Website - www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov



for CoVid19 details/county and state actions