



## Mayor's Message – October 2021

Fall tempts us to head out for New England Fall color....but I just can't imagine any place better than Horseshoe Bay in October/November. It has its own unique 'comfort color' of living.

### City News

You may notice a section of the **Beacon** generously (thanks!) providing space for City staff to share current news in a "*City Corner*" of the paper. It is part of the city's continued effort to put out 'just in time' information. This year communication continues as a key focus – and we welcome your feedback on how to keep us connected and informed. **Let the staff know** of any topics you would like to see shared in *the "Corner"* to make you feel more in the know.

Speaking of being **in the know**....A special THANK YOU to the Citizen Academy Alumni who joined the reunion on Wednesday. With about 100 graduates of this academy (18 hours) – and with a new group of 15 beginning next week – we are meeting our goal of having deeply informed citizens throughout the community who can serve as resources for neighbors and new to HSB residents. All applauded the format of academy sessions focused each week on a different city department, allowing for time with the head of that department (or chief) and a visit to the workspace (a moment in jail? A kid fantasy of sitting in the fire truck? A detailed walk through finances/how every tax dollar is spent?). I am thinking we should develop bumper stickers with "**Ask me...I know the 411 on HSB**" to point you to neighbor graduates who can support you. The FALL academy is full – but call if interested in the SPRING session.

**TAX is not a four letter word.** (well, at least tax garnered and applied with fiscal responsibility). Our pride in having exceptionally low taxes is real...but our pride in how these taxes work to make our quality of life the highest possible is even greater. Still, we look for opportunities to keep our PROPERTY TAXES low....and this next month, ironically, we can do this through a separate approval of taxes (but SALES TAX). Two items on the ballot:

- 1) Vote on the continuation of sales tax collection of  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a penny at point of sale for road maintenance (this has been voted on – by law – and approved every 4 years since 2009). This helps offset the annual costs seal coating, patching.
- 2) Vote on an additional  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a penny at point of sale for additional revenue to be used to supplement property tax for general operations. Over 1150 of the 1200 cities in Texas already collect this (and most of those who don't, have their county collect this as they predominantly use county roads). This would allow those who visit our community (resort, construction, etc.) to help pay for their use of our roads/emergency services. This additional money will bring our sales tax from 8 to 8  $\frac{1}{4}$  penny (the same as Marble Falls, Bee Cave, Llano...) Voting details (location, early Oct voting dates, ballot sample) are found on: <https://www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov/429/Election-Information> . **VOTE!!**

**Get Involved in decision making** and shaping YOUR City. December will be the time for new committee members to be appointed for the multiple service opportunities for our City. Be on the lookout – and apply/seek information if you want to bring your skill set to our Planning & Zoning, Parks, Board of Adjustment, Broadband, Fuchs House/Transitioning to Historical Preservation, a new Transportation Cmttee (hiking paths, access roads, future planning). With over 100 new residents we are excited to bring your prior experience forward to the benefit of us all – and the joy of purpose for yourself! If you love the feeling of a hole in one, an Ace serve in tennis, a jokerless concealed hand in Mahj, or meeting that fitness goal - Serving others is all that and more! <https://www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov/148/Boards-Committees-Commissions>

Some of us will head off to Houston for the **State Municipal League conference** this week. We will see what is happening with other cities, hear interpretations of new legislation (often unfunded!), and network with other similar size/demographic cities. We always look to learn from others on how best to manage YOUR tax dollars and provide high quality service. But – with all humility – we find that usually others are learning from our great team. Still...as we grow, we have new challenges, and we want to be proactive in being prepared so service is seamless even as over 150 new homes emerge this year.

Looking forward to returning home to the comfort of **Autumn in Horseshoe Bay**. Hope you will host some of our new neighbors in a dark skies backyard gathering, get those decorative pumpkins out and (maybe) find the need for some light sweaters.



Cynthia Clinesmith, Mayor

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