



Mayor's Message November 2022



Blink and the calendar jumps! Seems like yesterday we were dragging out of the drought...and now are full throttle into holiday mode with cooler temps, welcome rain, and upbeat moods! No matter the season, it always feels like a time of “thanksgiving” living in our HSBay!

City News

- **Lot mowing** is moving throughout the community. With over 7000 lots, most of which require much hand weed-eating approach, be patient. They will get to all. Rates increased slightly to ensure we could keep a fully staffed contract labor force. Some lot owners opt to self-mow, but if they do not after reminders, will have their lots mowed and billed for the service. Help keep us fire safe and groomed with pride!
- **Deer trapping** is being set aside this year as the drought reduced the herd significantly. We also registered a low accident rate on the main roads (always a goal) so we are seeing a healthy herd we can enjoy as ‘neighbors’. This year will be a review of deer paths and counts as we look at continually improving (and humane) herd management.
- **Internet tower installation** is moving forward. They first must install the foundations, then you can anticipate seeing trailers moving 25 ft. pieces into place. Fiber will then be trenched to the towers for stable wireless coverage across the city. Those eligible for actual fiber connections are being contacted as Vyve installs along the Hwy 2147 access. For detailed info on locations for the three new towers, go to the City website.
- **Quarterly Emergency Operations practice** was conducted (and an “active shooter” drill coming soon) to ensure all city staff (and Council) know their role for immediate action and support. County and regional support joined the practice – and community partners such as the churches, resort, and Quail Point were included for assurances. The focus this quarter was on flooding, but ‘lessons learned’ from prior needs of wildfires, tornadoes, ice storms, power outages are always reviewed.
- **Short Term Rental** ordinances are under review (homes listed on VRBO, AirBNB, etc). While respecting many of our homeowners invest in a 2nd home here with the intent of offsetting costs through rental (and we all enjoy the benefits when out of town guests need quality housing), there has been a rising trend for misuse that is impacting the quality of life for adjacent homes. Three-bedroom homes renting out to parties of 12 posing parking challenges, and lack of understanding/respect? for local behavior is creating a need to set boundaries with more significant consequences than typical calls to police for enforcement. Owners will be expected to register their homes, assume responsibility for behavior of renters. Similarly, the resort is monitoring to ensure guests are not using member cards for access to resort services that are reserved for members only. **Details will follow.** The goal is to respect 2nd home owners – but also to assure neighbor residents’ quality of living is secure.

Some 'celebrations' of sorts include:

- The “Secret Service” is serious about the term “secret” so most people didn’t realize **President Bush visited Horseshoe Bay** this past month. Coordinated support with the City Police team resulted in a seamless arrival (at the airport), caravan to resort, and safe exit. The Bush team made a point to let us know that the City of HSBay was a stellar example of prepared and professional officer performance. So proud!
- The City of Horseshoe Bay was **recognized with a GOLD Standard Scenic City Award** at the recent Texas Municipal League conference. Special thanks to Sandra Nash and the Development Services department for shaping the city standards that sets us apart.
- The City received **confirmation of its continued AA+ financial rating** – a high standard unique for cities our size. This speaks to quality financial management, clear audits, and long- range planning for a growing community (and to deep fiscal conservation practice)
- Speaking of conservation....we have been advocating for a requirement for surrounding users of the Highland Lakes systems to be expected to use solid conservation with visible evidence (as HSBay has done with its Stage 2 requirements since 2016, Water Smart technology, recent Water Systems audit). Protecting our water source only works if all join the effort. **LCRA responded** and now has a required “conservation demonstration component” for any city seeking renewed firm water contracts. **Our new contract (double the quantity for 20 years - max allowed) was readily approved.**
- **We welcome Dwight King to the City Council this month (and returning Elsie Thurman and Elaine Waddill) and applaud their volunteer spirit** in bringing their unique professional experience to the benefit of us all. Also, committee membership roles will be filled to ensure citizen voices are included in community development decisions.
- **So proud of the early voting turnout** (folks lined up at 6:30 am on Monday morning!) Remember early voting continues through Nov 4th, with election day on Tues, the 8th. For details and copy of sample ballot, go to www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov for details.

Community

- The recent County Town Hall (by Peter Jones) reminded us of the availability of **“The HOP”**. **Those in need of driving service for medical or varied support access** (pharmacy, grocery) can access this Llano County door to door bus at no cost. 800-791-9601 ext 5005. They are wheelchair ready, lift trained, and care focused for citizens
- A focus of **community concern for the past several years has been the post office** service. Kudos to the HSBay POA for stepping forward and taking the needed action. Working closely with the USPS, they have a plan in place that should push us closer to independence and our own postmaster. This will allow for focused HSBay service. As a part of this plan, they are installing additional Kiosks/boxes throughout the city. One

large installation is on Broken Hills near the Fire Station. While they have installed one box for every lot in HSBay West, there are actually only 300 residences eligible for a box (and not all of these will seek a box as some are second home owners, use the USPS, etc). As new homes establish, a box for that lot/address will be made available. The Fire Department (under physical upgrade itself) has worked with the concept plan to ensure fire service is not impacted. The POA is working on parking that will ensure no back up on Broken Hills. (Note: As a comparison, there are kiosks sites throughout with 100-200 boxes already in place that have not posed risks). The city will work with the POA for the coming 3 months to carefully monitor any impact to make decisions about adjustments if needed. For now, though, those seeking a kiosk mailbox need to reach out to the HSBay POA at Quail Point. Note: This is not a City of HSBay project.

- So much always for which to be thankful – **and the opportunity to help others is its own special blessing** for those of us able to reach out and meet needs. As you approach Thanksgiving (or consider Christmas donations), keep in mind these (among the many):
 - ***Joseph’s Hammer** has almost reached its financial goal to build the needed chapel/classroom at the Burnet Women’s Prison. This will provide support for women of non-violent crimes to assist in strong, successful return to society. Reach out to www.josephshammer.org if you are able to help.
 - ***Workforce Network** has worked hard with limited funds and volunteer boots on the ground effort to grow/certify licensed professionals in plumbing, electrical, nursing, and office/accounting services. The underlying motive is also to train area adults in low earning jobs for a career to self-support w/pride. They are in primary need of a facility for training and will welcome any financial, hands on, or professional experience you can offer. Contact: Gail Davalos(830-265-8024)
 - ***CASA** – adopt an angel for a child’s Christmas wish. Children removed from homes face the holidays with limited joy. Reach out to CASA for the Highland Lakes Toy Drive. (A donation box will be available at City Tree Lighting/Holidaze)



Speaking of HOLIDAZE.... **Mark your calendars** to get ready for Thanksgiving AND Holiday prep.

- **This Saturday, Nov. 5th** at Quail Point will be the annual enormous crafts fair (great gift shopping AND support of local artists). See the POA newsletter for details...
- ★ **THURSDAY, Dec. 1st** will be the community HOLIDAZE hosted by the Horseshoe Bay Business Alliance. This year will have carol singing, cookies and cocoa, Santa, dancers, booths by local businesses w/treats, and **lighting of the City Christmas Tree (at dark)**.

As we step into November, we join together in an opportunity **to salute our Veterans on November 11th**....and to reflect on the good fortune to have been born/live in America. A special thanks to the **Kiwanis Club** who install flag displays for special occasions of pride. I am ever grateful for family, friends, freedom, and the many who serve us all – at home, abroad, and in our own community. **Living the life in Horseshoe Bay! Happy Thanksgiving!!**



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Cynthia Clinesmith, Mayor

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

