



Mayor's Monthly Message

Mayor Elsie Thurman - April 2024

By Mayor Elsie Thurman

It has been seven years since the last Total Solar Eclipse occurred in the United States, and the next one will not happen until August 2045, which is twenty-one years from now. Therefore, the Total Solar Eclipse that will take place on April 8 is the best opportunity for most of us to witness this spectacular astronomical event. We are hoping for clear skies and a perfect view of the show in Horseshoe Bay.

The sun will begin to disappear behind the moon at about 12:14 and last until about 2:55. At about 1:32 p.m., our world will be completely dark for about 4 minutes and 15 seconds.

We expect to have visitors – maybe a lot of them. But I do not think HSB will be inundated with bad people we need to fear and shun. They want to see the eclipse but are not lucky enough to live along the path. There are things we can all do to ensure a good experience for ourselves and our visitors, and there are things you need to know.

The Emergency Operations Team in Horseshoe Bay has been preparing for this for over a year. We will plan for the worst and hope for the best. I want to give you some advice and facts that might help you.

Emergency Response Plans

- Cell coverage will likely be affected as everyone will be outside taking photos and using phones
- Take care of each other. Talk to your neighbors and let them know if you have a landline
- Enable Wifi Calling on your cell phone (Settings, Cellular, Wi-Fi Calling turned on)
- You can text 911 if you cannot get through. Texts are dispatched the same as regular calls. Dispatch will ask the appropriate pre-designed questions to determine the nature of the emergency
- Emergency responders use radios to communicate so cell coverage will not affect them
- **PLEASE do not call 911 unless it is a serious emergency.** If you need non-critical help, here are the numbers to call:
 - **Police (830) 598-2633**
 - **Fire (830) 598-6953**
 - **Medical Emergency (830) 693-7277**
 - **Water/wastewater (830) 598-8741 – after hours, press #2, and on-call personnel will return your call immediately**
- Our city is bringing in support from the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS). We will have extra units on police patrol starting Saturday and going through Monday
- Our first responders will be staying in the City even when they are not on duty to avoid delays in getting to HSB for their shift
- Several agencies will patrol the Lake: Texas Parks & Wildlife, DPS, Burnet County, Granite Shoals, LCRA and HSB



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Traffic and Preparations

- Hwy 281 and Hwy 71 will be crowded and slow-moving between April 4 and April 9
- Please do not delay your shopping. Get your provisions in by the last week of March to allow stores to re-stock before out-of-town shoppers arrive
- Get your vehicle filled with gas
- Don't schedule appointments for April 8
- Get cash if you need it because cell service will affect ATMs
- Many of you will move about town in your golf cart. That is fine, but you cannot drive on FM 2147, including the shoulder.

Parking

- First responders will not allow cars to stop along FM 2147
- Parking on city streets will be by the existing ordinance. You and your in-town guests can park on the street between your lot lines 12 hours out of 24. Out-of-town guests are allowed 72 hours. Cars can park on both sides of the street but must be headed the correct way with the flow of traffic and must allow enough clearance for fire trucks to pass between parked cars
- RV parking is **prohibited in parking lots, driveways, or streets**. Staying overnight in an RV is **not permitted** except in the campground. Along the same lines, camping (tents, etc.) is not allowed except camping at the campground with POA approval. Some first responders will have travel trailers parked in the City

Closures

- City Hall, schools, and some businesses will be closed on April 8
- Martin Park and the pickleball courts will be closed from April 4-8 for personnel staging
- The HSB airport will be closed except for PRIVATE aircraft that have a current lease in place with HSB Jet Center, and those aircraft are subject to the 4-hour prior notification
- If Monday is your trash day, it will be moved to Tuesday

City Services

- Get your eclipse-watching glasses by stopping by the Utility Desk at City Hall – while supplies last
- There is a burn ban in place in Burnet County, and Llano has an initiative on the docket
- Fireworks are prohibited in HSB except by permit to licensed contractors (but hopefully, nobody would ruin an eclipse by lighting up the sky with fireworks anyway!)
- All water storage tanks will be topped off to total capacity
- All of the tanker trucks will be full and ready to go
- Please refrain from watering your grass on Saturday, April 6-8, to help us be sure we have plenty of water – especially for fire protection
- Please know that the people who care for us daily in Horseshoe Bay will do their job to ensure we can all enjoy this fantastic event. So, get your eclipse-glasses, fill the cooler, and enjoy the spectacle.