



Mayor's Monthly Message

Mayor Elsie Thurman - June 2024

By Mayor Elsie Thurman

There seems to be an acronym for everything. Our newest one is LUDAC. Ruben Fechner, Gil Blount, Eddie Greer, Donna Klaeger, Mark Knudsen, Kay Colapret, and Willie Reinders are the hard-working members of the newly formed Land Use and Development Advisory Committee. They will be studying the undeveloped parcels of property in our city limits as well as our ETJ (another acronym for Extraterritorial Jurisdiction, which is the property surrounding our city within a mile in each direction- until we run into the ETJ of another city.)

They will make recommendations to the City Council as to developments that will be compatible with the desires of our citizens to shape the future growth of Horseshoe Bay. They will interview a wide range of stakeholders, citizens, and leaders of our city and surrounding communities and counties. They plan on surveying Horseshoe Bay residents to get their ideas. We can look around us and see that development is coming, and we need to have a say in our future. Do we want restaurants, small gas stations, estate lots, barndominiums, a K-12 school, an urgent care clinic, a 9-hole golf course, retail outlets, and apartments? All of these are possibilities or projects that have already been proposed by developers, and some of them may happen along either FM 2147 or Hwy. 71. As in the past, the team will focus on minimizing traffic on FM 2147 with desirable development not bringing more traffic into our city.

Over the summer, the LUDAC team will gather data and evaluate the impact on our infrastructure, including the demand for water. They will present their report next fall. Please join me in thanking them for their willingness to tackle this critical endeavor and thinking about what you want to see developed in and around our city over the next ten to fifteen years. We all have a part in planning for our future, and I hope every citizen takes the time to respond to the survey, which will be conducted later this summer.

I know people are wondering about the status of the LCRA requirements on limiting outdoor watering. We are thankful for the rain that has raised the level of Lakes Buchanan and Travis. As of this writing, Lake Buchanan is 72% full, and Lake Travis is 40% full. The combined storage of both is now at 1,082,925 acre feet, representing a combined storage of 54 percent. This is very good news. The new regulations passed by the LCRA in March state that when the combined storage reaches 1,100,000 acre-feet, we can go back to Stage 1, meaning we can resume watering twice a week. So, if the rain continues, we have a chance.

In the meantime, we are very grateful to the Horseshoe Bay community for cooperating with setting sprinkler timers to water once a week. While we remain in Stage 2, our water conservation specialist, David Millegan, is here to help you. He can explain the "cycle-and-soak" practice, where you divide irrigation times into smaller intervals with short breaks in between to allow more water to soak into the soil. This will keep more water on the plants and prevent runoff of unused water.



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You can contact David at (830) 598-9973 or email him at dmillegan@horseshoe-bay-tx.gov. Final word: don't let up on your rain dances. They're working!

Elsie Thurman, Mayor

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