



Mayor's Monthly Message

Mayor Elsie Thurman - March 2025

City Update from Horseshoe Bay

Town Hall meeting

The meeting previously scheduled for March 26 has been cancelled. We will re-schedule at a later time.

LCRA Water Restrictions

March 1 marked an important evaluation date for the LCRA regarding lake levels and intake flow. Unfortunately, current statistics have placed us in Stage 2 drought management, which typically limits watering to once per week. This restriction won't officially take effect until after our March 18 City Council Meeting. Meanwhile, our utility experts are discussing with LCRA officials about creating a hybrid schedule that meets requirements while providing more flexibility. Having too many residents watering on the same day strains our water production system. We'll notify you when the mandate takes effect and outline the rules to follow.

Dark Skies Initiative

We've received increasing complaints regarding our Dark Sky Ordinance enforcement. Rest assured, we're committed to ensuring these rules are followed, but we need your help. If you notice a violation, please complete the form at horseshoe-bay-tx.gov/DocumentCenter/View/4348/Code-Complaint-Form or call (830) 598-9959. Your identity will remain anonymous unless required by legal proceedings. Your assistance is valuable since our code enforcement officers don't patrol after dark. When complaints are received, they'll visit properties after sunset to evaluate compliance and work with owners to adjust lighting accordingly.

Legislative Update

The Texas Legislature is currently in session with bill filing continuing until March 14. Already 6,000 bills have been filed, with an unprecedented 12,000 expected in total. We've established a "Speak Up" database to help influence legislation affecting our community. Currently, 115 residents have joined, and you can participate by emailing speakup@horseshoe-bay-tx.gov with "add me to the database" in the subject line.

When important bills progress, we'll email you with information on contacting our representatives. This database won't be used for other purposes or shared. We're monitoring legislation concerning:



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- City rights to regulate within ETJs (including billboards)
- Short-term rental regulations
- Immigration enforcement
- Cities' ability to hire lobbyists
- Accessory Dwelling Unit regulations
- Home-based food businesses
- Property tax laws

Some bills would benefit Horseshoe Bay while others could be detrimental. Staff members and I have already met with our representatives and committee members in Austin, with another meeting scheduled for March 19. They're receptive to our concerns and want to help, but they need to hear from us. We're working to ensure they understand how various issues impact small cities.

Upcoming Ordinance Updates

In the coming months, the City Council will pass several new ordinances addressing citizen concerns. These include updates to our building codes, builder conduct regulations, and drainage issues. We've consulted with local builders to gather feedback, as these changes will significantly impact their work. We're grateful to our outstanding local builders who have helped develop these new regulations and support maintaining Horseshoe Bay's high construction standards.

Your city council is working diligently on these and other matters. On their behalf, thank you for your continued support. Horseshoe Bay is a special place, and we take seriously our responsibility to protect and preserve our city for everyone's benefit.

Enjoy the beautiful spring weather!

Elsie Thurman, Mayor

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