



# Mayor's Monthly Message

Mayor Elsie Thurman - May 2025

## Drought vs. Development

The Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) has placed Horseshoe Bay and neighboring Colorado River communities under Stage 2 drought restrictions (visit [www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov/stage2](http://www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov/stage2) to learn more). We are only allowed to water our lawns once per week.

I hear the following question often, "Why continue approving new construction during a drought?" This is a perfectly reasonable question and deserves an explanation.

The short answer is, "because we have to." Texas state law prohibits municipalities from imposing building moratoriums based on water supply unless we can demonstrate specific deficiencies in water provision or wastewater treatment capacity. Any such moratorium would require submitting a detailed remediation plan to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

Fortunately, our city has planned responsibly, ensuring our facilities can handle both current needs and projected growth for years ahead. Texas strongly protects property owners' rights—if someone owns properly zoned land in Horseshoe Bay, they retain the right to build according to existing ordinances.

While we depend entirely on Lake LBJ for water and cannot control inflow amounts, we are taking action. Our staff is developing an ordinance for new construction requiring drought-tolerant landscaping, limiting turf areas, and recommending appropriate grass varieties. We will also strictly enforce Stage 2 watering restrictions using available technology. I'm grateful for our citizens' understanding as we navigate this challenging time together. Please join me in hoping for rain soon!

## Construction Progress

Both the City Center and West Fire Station projects remain on—or slightly ahead of—schedule! It's exciting to see the progress along FM 2147. The City Council will tour both construction sites on May 2, and we're eager to get a firsthand look at these spaces as they take shape. We're particularly motivated to complete the City Center as we have special plans for this location.

## **20th Anniversary Celebration**

This September marks Horseshoe Bay's 20th anniversary, and we're planning a citywide celebration on October 25 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the grounds of the new City Center. The event will feature ceremonies, festivities, and recognition of our city's achievements.

Please mark your calendars and consider planning your travel around this date—it will be a wonderful opportunity for our community to gather, preview the new building, and celebrate together!

## **Speak Up Horseshoe Bay Program**

Thank you to everyone who has contacted our legislators through our "Speak Up" program. Your letters are making a difference! To join this effort or learn more about legislative matters affecting Horseshoe Bay, please visit our website at the following link: [www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov/speakup](http://www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov/speakup).

## **Dottie Anderson Citizens' Academy**

Registration is open for the fall 2025 session of our popular Citizens' Academy, which begins in October. Classes will meet on Thursdays at 2:00 p.m. for nine weeks (with a break for Thanksgiving). Spaces are still available for this free program, which has received overwhelmingly positive feedback from its 230-plus graduates. Contact our office for an application or visit [www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov/citizensacademy](http://www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov/citizensacademy).

As summer approaches, some residents prepare to visit second homes or cooler climates and many of us will stay here and enjoy all the wonderful things about Horseshoe Bay. To all of you, rest assured that those whose job it is to maintain and improve Horseshoe Bay will be here doing just that. Have a wonderful summer!