



Mayor's Monthly Message

Mayor Elsie Thurman - June 2025

Summer Fun Awaits in Horseshoe Bay

With Memorial Day behind us and school winding down, many residents are preparing for summer getaways to cooler climates. But for those staying put, Horseshoe Bay offers plenty of entertaining options that make our community a “really cool place!”

Grandchildren can't wait to return each summer, and it is wonderful when they want to come visit. For those who are members of the Escondido or Horseshoe Bay Resort, there are numerous offerings available. But even if you are not part of a resort, the City offers activities for every age group.

Family Friendly Ideas

Martin Park remains a popular stop for small children with its playground equipment and recently renovated bathrooms and picnic areas. The park welcomes everyone from daylight to dark, with a 10 p.m. curfew. While the playground is always open to the public, families can reserve the pavilion for private events by calling 830-598-9972 during business hours or sending an email to rhagen@horseshoe-bay-tx.gov.

Another favorite of our grandchildren is fishing. Just pick up nightcrawlers at 7-11 or Walmart, grab a fishing pole and a bobber, and find a pond or quiet cove. I'm sure real fishermen would say this is not fishing, so I will agree that is better described as catching fish; but it is fun and will create lasting memories!

The Horseshoe Bay Nature Park on Golden Nugget offers another excellent family outing. Before visiting, check www.hsbpark.org to download helpful resources, including a birding guide, scavenger hunt, and coloring book—perfect tools for bringing different generations together while exploring nature. There are benches, picnic tables, and a restroom available at the park.

Outdoor Activities for All Ages

Hiking enthusiasts can explore the Horseshoe Creek Trail, a 2.5-mile route that follows portions of the creek from the Mausoleum down to Wayne's Trail near Thanksgiving Mountain and FM 2147. Detailed directions are available on the City website at www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov/horseshoecreek.

There is another popular hiking trail that is owned by the Horseshoe Bay Property Owners' Association, the Slick Rock Creek Trail. The trail starts at the cul-de-sac on Forest Circle,

located off Hi Mesa. Consult the website for the Horseshoe Bay POA (www.hsbpoa.org) for a map of the trail.

Also, there are public pickleball courts located behind City Hall. These courts operate on a first-come, first-served basis and cannot be reserved. So far, players have been courteous about sharing court time when multiple groups arrive, eliminating the need for formal scheduling rules.

Golf Carts and Personal Watercraft

Golf carts and personal watercraft (PWC) are popular with residents and visitors, though both require attention to safety regulations. Golf cart operators must possess valid driver's license when using public streets, and adults should accompany young passengers and inexperienced drivers. Please do not let young children loose to race up and down our city streets. If the police encounter them, they will be cited and then released to their parents. Nobody wants that to happen! You can learn more about golf cart safety at www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov/golfcarts.

For jet skis and wave runners, Texas law requires anyone born after September 1, 1993, to obtain a Boater Education Certificate before operating these PWCs. Children under 13 cannot drive a PWC unless accompanied by someone over 18 who is legally authorized to operate it. Given the power and potential danger of these machines, following these guidelines helps maintain safety on Lake LBJ (learn more at www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov/lakesafety).

Thank You for Noticing

In talking to people around the City, I am often asked if I spend a lot of time dealing with complaints. The truth is that complaints are far less common than compliments. Emails praising the helpfulness of employees in the reclamation center, utilities department, street maintenance, utility billing, police, and fire departments regularly make their way back to me.

These positive interactions mean a great deal to me and senior management, but when you formally recognize the outstanding efforts of an individual staff member it reinforces that their dedication and hard work are recognized and appreciated by the community they serve. This means a lot to them! All of us working together will make this the best city it can be. Thank you!

Summer in the Hill Country offers so many opportunities. The key is balancing fun with safety. Remember, we all live in a “really cool place” so get out there and enjoy the summer!