



City of BUNKER HILL VILLAGE

NEWSLETTER

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From the Mayor

June 2020

Dear Residents,

I have completed my first year as Mayor and what a year! Our resilient community has endured Tropical Storm Imelda, the COVID 19 pandemic, the renegotiation of the interlocal agreement with the Village Fire Commission and other Cities (and the start of the station renovation), two broken water wells, planning a new well site, bond refinancing, the huge drainage project on Bunker Hill Road, and lighting concerns at Memorial Forest Club. I fondly remember sharing with you that the start of my term as Mayor involved numerous meetings with residents and elected officials to understand the various issues and concerns relevant to our community. With all of these recent events, I've added even more meetings to the calendar as I have met with representatives from the School District, nearby Cities, Harris County, State of Texas, and Federal governmental entities about various issues and most importantly monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic. I cannot emphasize enough that we, as a community, need to continue to physically distance at least 6 feet from others and also to wear a face covering whenever necessary to venture outside your house.

As we continue to monitor this situation, I want to take the time to thank Chief Ray Schultz for all of his "overnight" reports over these past months. Chief Schultz took the leadership role for assuring a single consistent voice for our three Villages so not to inundate or confuse you with possibly contradictory emails regarding the COVID-19 situation. Chief Schultz was very factual, thorough, and even humorous at times. He did a great job! Speaking of a great job, MVPD has once again been named one of Texas's Safest Cities. Safewise has again named MVPD within the top 10 safest cities for 2020. I also want to thank Chief Foster at the Village Fire Department for administering and the City of Spring Valley for helping arrange and paying for COVID-19 testing of our City Staff. We are happy to report that, following the testing, our City Staff were all able to continue working with peace of mind.

Over the past few months our City Staff, lead by our City Administrator Karen Glynn, has worked diligently to maintain our services within the City and to our residents. Karen developed our policy consistent with the various orders issued by the Governor and our County Judge Lina Hidalgo. Based on these orders, please note that all visitors to City Hall shall wear a facial covering and maintain a safe social distance for the protection of the residents and staff. In addition, we will continue to "Zoom" City Council and Planning and Zoning Commission Meetings. We continue to improve our ability to handle more tasks online rather than requiring a visit to City Hall.

Recently, we have been having issues with residents notifying elected officials and City Staff of "after hours" emergencies by email. Please note, if you have an emergency after hours, please call City Hall at 713-467-9762 and dial "9." This will transfer you to MVPD Dispatch and they will contact our on-call team. If something can wait until Monday or the next business day, use our website to report the problem. Our emails are checked only on normal working days, during working hours.

We are excited about our scaled-down "pandemic-safe" 4th of July car parade. The City of Hunters Creek has taken the lead role in the event this year. For more information about entering your vehicle in the car parade, please contact: tfullen@cityofhunterscreek.com. To assure compliance with the various orders in place to limit COVID-19 exposure and the safety of residents and our first responders, no events are planned after the parade.

Humbly yours, Mayor Robert P. Lord

Bunker Hill's SUPERIOR Water

Bunker Hill Village has once again received the State's rating of **SUPERIOR** for the City's water system. Review the details in the *City's 2019 Annual Water Quality Report* available on our website at https://bunkerhilltx.gov/images/documents/CCR/CCR_2019.pdf for a printed copy of the report can be requested at 713-467-9762. Congrats to our Public Works Team who work diligently in this effort!

Dear Residents,

Many thanks for your efforts and understanding over these past few months as we all work through the impact of the pandemic. It is definitely a challenging time. Frostwood Elementary School is joining this issue in sharing their thoughts and prayers in addition to their artwork encouraging all of us to continue to stay strong. These students are thinking of you as they have been working from home, too. Thank you Frostwood and happy summer break to all of our students!!

We are very pleased to share that Bunker Hill's water system has once again been classified as "Superior." Our annual water quality report is available online. Many thanks go out to our great Public Works Team headed by Gama Escamilla. I must share that Gama has just celebrated his 29th Anniversary with the City. He knows this water system (and the City) inside and out and ensures your safety each and every day. I am so proud to be on Gama's team!

Please see more on our Superior Water System on Page 2 along with other latest information to share. Stay Well!

Karen Glynn, City Administrator



*City Hall will be closed
Monday, July 6th*

In Observance of the Independence Day Holiday

Latest News

It's Hurricane Season Again

June 1st marked the first day of hurricane season - Please take some time to review the information on our website for [hurricane preparedness](#) - found under "*Latest News.*" One area in particular is the link to [sign up for "power alerts"](#) with CenterPoint. This is a great tool - you will need information from your electric bill so have that bill handy.

Bunker Hill's Superior Water System

As shared on the front page, we are very proud of our Public Works Team and the SUPERIOR results of the *City's 2019 Annual Water Quality Report.* Bunker Hill Village has a Utility Fund that is self supporting through our rate structure. This includes taking care of wells, pumps, tanks, and both water and wastewater lines, ensuring our utility system is maintained for years to come. The City purchases water from the City of Houston to ensure we are in compliance with the Harris Galveston County Subsidence District's requirements. Along with drinking, our water is also used for many purposes including landscaping. See our "tips" below to help with water usage (and your bill!) during these hot summer months.

Utility Bills - Auto Draft Payments Available

We encourage all residents to consider "**Auto Draft**" to pay your utility bill by credit card or bank draft. "**Auto Draft**" is secure, debits your account on the due date and ensures no late fees or cut offs. This helps tremendously to streamline the payment process. *This is very helpful as we bill every other month and we hear that these bills can be overlooked.* Once again, this can be set up on our website, www.bunkerhilltx.gov, look for the green button for "[Online Payments](#)" – make sure you have your previous utility bill handy with all of your account information and credit card info in hand with *a good expiration date.* There is a separate form if you prefer [bank draft](#). There are currently ~ 50% of residents on an auto draft plan.

Water Conservation Tips

- *Adjust irrigation systems to prevent over watering. One inch (1") per week is typically sufficient.*
- *Mulch flower beds and shrubs to help retain the moisture longer.*
- *Have irrigation systems inspected annually to find damaged valves & heads.*
- *Install quality rain detection devices to shut the system off during rain.*
- *Adjust systems to operate in the early morning hours before 5 am.*
- *Choose sprinkler heads which produce larger drops and not a fine mist.*

City's Annual Audit

Mike Brotherton, Belt Harris Pechacek, LLLP, presented the City's Annual Audit for the year ending December 31, 2019 at the May City Council Meeting. Mr. Brotherton reported that the City received an "*unmodified opinion*" which is the highest level of assurance a City can get. He reported that the City is in great financial condition with excellent fund balances and reserves.

Update on Capital Improvement Projects

- The City has officially completed the reconstruction project for Warrenton, Kilts and Valley Star. In addition, new water lines were installed on Chapel Bell and Winshire Circle by change order to the project. Many thanks to these residents for your patience and understanding during all of the construction.
- The Beautification Committee has been busy making improvements to the "corner site" at Memorial and Hickory Ridge. The City has also extended new street lighting along Memorial Drive in this vicinity.
- The area of Memorial in front of Frostwood Elementary School was experiencing some base failures. This has been repaired along with new striping on Memorial Drive from Briar Forest to Gessner.
- The City of Bunker Hill partnered with the City of Piney Point to install new landscaping along Memorial Drive between Briar Forest and Blalock. Piney Point will be responsible for maintaining this area.
- Tree plantings have continued in the City through the dedication program and also, utilizing funds from the City's new "Offsite Tree Fund" whereby fees are collected with new home construction for properties that meet the minimum tree count but still are required to replace trees removed.



have a good day~



by: Sofiya

DEAR NEIGHBOR,
SLOWLY
WE WILL GET THROUGH THIS



thinking
of
YOU



Have
a good day



by: Sofiya

Stay cool !!



Greetings from Frostwood
Elementary School!!

Meet Our Summer Interns -- *Morgan Gaille and Jeremy Mitschke*

Bunker Hill Residents, Morgan Gaille and Jeremy Mitschke have joined the City's Team this year for the summer. This is Morgan's third summer with the City. She is a senior at Texas A&M graduating in December with a Political Science Degree. She is planning to get her teaching certificate in Spring 2021. Jeremy is a rising Senior at Baylor University majoring in Marketing. Both have been busy working on the City's Records Management System, helping the City organize files electronically as well as work through the destruction of records per policy. A few other projects include assisting staff with the evaluation of lots in the City and mapping the City's top priorities for utility rehabilitation. They also assist the staff as needed, helped with this newsletter and will be preparing some online videos and training.



Resident Needs, Services, Contacts & FAQs

We are working to put together some “how to” videos to help with using our website. Please Stay Tuned! The following is also a friendly reminder from the last newsletter with a few additions:

Emergencies - The City partners with the Memorial Villages Police Department (MVPD) and the Village Fire Department (VFD) on emergencies. If you have an emergency ***that cannot wait*** until the next business day, please **contact MVPD at 713-365-3700** and they can dispatch our city personnel to respond to your needs.

All Non-Emergencies and Other Needs – For needs or questions ***that can wait*** until “Monday” or the next business day, please see our website at www.bunkerhilltx.gov and “***Report a Problem.***” This information will come as an email directly to staff. Emails are checked on work days. We work diligently to respond as quickly as possible.

V-linc Communications - The **v-linc** messaging system serves as the main means of providing emergency and timely communications. (The system provided a daily email from Chief Schultz during the pandemic as well as his weekly email.) We encourage all residents to please **head to your computer, go to www.bunkerhilltx.gov and look for the green button “Sign up for Community Alerts.”** This will direct you to the Memorial Villages Police Department V-linc page. You can also register your alarm, add your residence to the “*Solicitor No Contact List,*” and add your phone numbers to the “*National Do Not Call Registry.*”

House Watch Request – The House Watch Program is handled by the Memorial Villages Police Department. This is available on-line before you head out of town. We have added to our website under “*Citizen Services – House Vacation Watch*” – This link will direct you to [the MVPD page and form](#). You can also access this form directly via the MVPD website.

Building Permits - Residents are encouraged to handle any permitting needs via the website www.bunkerhilltx.gov and by email to info@bunkerhilltx.gov. In addition, effective July 1, 2020 all requests for inspections must be submitted online. This is a process improvement to better serve you and your contractors.

Tree Permits – [Tree permits are available online](#) and there is no fee. The latest Tree Ordinance was approved in 2015 (*with some recent amendments*) and recommended to the City Council by the Beautification Committee and the Planning and Zoning Commission (all resident volunteers). The Ordinance does require a tree count and replacement of trees removed. If you have owned your home prior to 1996, you are exempt from the “tree count” but you must still obtain a permit.