



City of BUNKER HILL VILLAGE

NEWSLETTER

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A Note from Mayor Lord

August 2020

Dear Residents,

The City Council, Staff and I have been diligently working on the annual budget process for Calendar Year 2021. The Council has reviewed the proposed budget and, in view of the ongoing pandemic, has voted to maintain the tax rate at \$0.277 per \$100 in valuation. The Council and I are continuing to look closely at the budget to determine whether a reduction in the tax rate is possible. The Council will vote on the final tax rate at the September 15, 2020 City Council Meeting, which will also include a public hearing (more details on the back page).

Much to our surprise, certified tax information from the Harris County Tax Appraiser shows that property values in Bunker Hill Village **decreased** this year, the first time in 10 years. Thus, the average resident's tax bill will be **lower** as will be the overall tax revenue collected.

I am also proud to announce that there is no proposed increase in utility rates planned for 2021. In addition, we are working proactively with our contractor Texas Pride to at least maintain current rates for trash and recycling. In view of the COVID-19 pandemic, Public Safety continues to be one of our top priorities. The majority of the budget expenditures continues to focus on Fire, EMS and Police as well as upgrading our aging public infrastructure. Finally, we have budgeted for the planning and construction of a replacement water well for 2021. We are hoping this new well dutifully serves our community for 60+ years like the prior well did.

Humbly, **Mayor Robert Lord**

Dear Residents,

As Mayor Lord noted, we have been busy preparing for the annual budget process. This year, Bunker Hill and all Texas Cities are following the new legislation enacted for calculating and communicating the "Truth in Taxation" impact of your taxes.

Harris County Tax Office has mailed postcards referencing the website: harrispropertytaxes.org for constituents to access and clearly see the proposed taxes on your property. The City's proposed tax rate is also on the City's homepage www.bunkerhilltx.gov along with the details of the budget.

As the City Council works through so many different items, know that the City's Mission Statement continues to be at the forefront guiding these decisions:

"The Mayor, City Council and Staff of Bunker Hill Village are committed to governing with integrity and fiscal responsibility. We are dedicated to creating a sense of community, ensuring the safety and well-being of our citizens, and preserving our unique character and quality of life so that we can pass on a greater and more beautiful city to future generations."

We certainly hope all of you are continuing to stay well during the pandemic. I will share that the City has been receiving more communications than usual about resident concerns during this time. We certainly know it can be difficult to work and "school" from home and new construction and basic services can be "noisy." Please know that we are working diligently to follow our mission statement in preserving the "quality of life" which you expect. Thank you for your efforts to be good neighbors with a little more sensitivity, respect, understanding and tolerance as we continue to manage the City during this pandemic.

Cordially, **Karen Glynn, City Administrator**

In Memory of **Councilmember** **Lula Belle "Cooky" Mays**



The City was saddened to hear of the death of former Councilmember Cooky Mays. Councilmember Mays was appointed to the City Council in March of 2008 and served until May 2011. Councilmember Mays shared her vision for the beautification and uniqueness of Bunker Hill Village resulting in the establishment of entryway signage to identify the City to all that passed by. She continued her service as a member of the City's Beautification Committee. Mayor Lord and the City Council recognized Councilmember Mays' service to the City at the August 18, 2020 City Council Meeting and will be adding a tree in her honor to the "City's Arbor Tribute Walk."



Upcoming Events in the Villages

2021 Budget Public Hearings

City Hall or Via Zoom
Tuesday, September 15, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

Proposed 2021 Budget Proposed 2020 Tax Rate Budget Adoption

Zoom Instructions are on the City's Website

Villages Recycling Event

Hedwig Village City Hall
Saturday, October 24, 2020 from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Twinkle Light Parade

Thursday, December 17, 2020 beginning at 6:00 p.m.
More info to come!

Regular City Council Meetings *

September 15 – October 20 – November 17
City Hall at 5:30 p.m.

* Updates will be provided via v-linc and on the City's website
to see if Zoom meetings will continue

Latest City Updates and Reminders

- **COVID 19** -- The City continues to follow all COVID protocols for the safety of visitors and staff. Thank you for wearing a mask when entering City Hall. We also thank residents for joining our City Council Meetings via Zoom and using the online "contactless" services via the City's website.
- **New Ordinance** -- The City has adopted a new Ordinance as recommended by the City's Drainage Committee to address minimum slab elevations. This includes meeting the requirements as adopted by Harris County based on new flood data. *More information on this ordinance is available via the City's website.*
- **Pets & Animal Control** -- Keep a lookout for some new pet waste stations in the City. Please be a good neighbor: Keep dogs on leashes and use the doggie stations for pet waste only. The City also provides animal control in Bunker Hill. We often receive calls regarding lost or missing pets. A recent tip has been shared on the local news: use your cell phone to take a photo of you and your pet. The photo will then be available if your pet is missing.
- **Contact Us** -- 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 the City's website to report the problem. Be advised that email is checked only on normal working days, during working hours.
- **Auto Pay** -- Visit the City's website to set up Auto Pay and make sure you do not miss a utility payment. Please note: *The City bills every other month.* Auto Pay is also available now by credit card to allow "contactless" payment. *Late fees will be re-implemented in September.*

Bunker Hill's SUPERIOR Water System

As previously noted, the Bunker Hill Village water system continues to be rated as **SUPERIOR** by the State of Texas. Review the details in the *City's 2019 Annual Water Quality Report* available on our website:

https://bunkerhilltx.gov/images/documents/CCR/CCR_2019.pdf

Congratulations and many thanks to our Public Works Team for their continued SUPERIOR work!



Bunker Hill Resident Sam Puhala partnered with the City and Resident Mike Silva to plan and implement his Eagle Scout Project. Take a walk along the Greenbay Trail to Blalock Road and enjoy the improved pathway, landscaping and a little history while taking a rest on the new benches. Thank you Sam and Mr. Silva!