



City of
BUNKER HILL VILLAGE
NEWSLETTER

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A Note from Mayor Lord

August 2021

Dear Residents,

As I noted in my previous messages in this newsletter, each of us is handling the pandemic at our own pace and with individual decision making, such as choosing whether to receive the Covid vaccine. In this month's message, I would like to share a few thoughts discussed by the City Council at our last Council Meeting in August.

First, your decision regarding whether to receive the Covid vaccine is just that....your decision. On a personal note, the City Council, City Staff, and I are all vaccinated. The consensus of the discussion was that there is a ton of information out there about the vaccine. We all agreed that we individually relied on information we trusted, whether from our individual doctor or sites with reliable data. One of our Councilmembers received a copy of a presentation with some information about Covid and the Covid vaccine from the highly rated Methodist Hospital in the Medical Center. The following interesting data was shared:

- **In their opinion, the new Covid surge is primarily due to three things:**
 - Infectiousness of the Delta variant ...It is more infectious than the original strain
 - Low vaccination rates...not enough people got vaccinated in the US
 - Little to no community mitigation
- **Comparison of the infectiousness of various diseases...described as the average number of people one (1) sick person will infect:**
 - 1918 flu and Ebola – 2 people
 - Swine Flu and HIV – 4 people
 - Chickenpox – 10 people
 - Measles – 18 people
 - Original strain of Covid – 3 people
 - Delta variant of Covid – 7 people
 - Mumps – 14 people
- **US Hospitalizations in 2021...the people getting the Delta variant of Covid and going to the hospital more recently are younger:**
 - *First 2 weeks of January:*
 - 71% were 60 years of age or older
 - 21% were between the ages of 40 and 59
 - 8% were 39 years or younger
 - *First 2 weeks of August:*
 - 47% are 60 years of age or older
 - 35% are between the ages of 40 and 59
 - 18% are 39 years or younger
- Every state with a HIGHER vaccination rate than the country overall has a LOWER hospitalization rate. The Covid vaccine seems to keep people out of the hospital.
- SETRAC, which is the Southeast Texas Regional Advisory Council, received data from 38 hospitals in Southeast Texas a few weeks ago, which showed a total of 1,554 patients hospitalized with Covid. Of those, 1,410 patients, or 90.7%, were unvaccinated.

The key takeaway for the City Council during our meeting was that although the Covid vaccine does not work forever and it does not protect everyone 100% of the time, it appears to be pretty effective. Further information may be found in an instructive video from the State of Texas regarding the Covid Delta variant at the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dKq9OZ75GIU>

As someone who considers public safety and public service a personal core value, I will continue to encourage everyone to seek the facts from reputable sources and make the right decision for you and your family. Please Stay Safe and Healthy!

Humbly yours, Mayor Robert P. Lord

Dear Residents,

The City has been working diligently on the annual budget process for Fiscal Year (Calendar Year) 2022. The Council has voted on the proposal to maintain the tax rate at \$0.275 per \$100 in valuation. The Council is scheduled to vote on the final tax rate at their September 21, 2021, City Council Meeting which will also include a public hearing.

Harris County Tax Office has mailed postcards referencing the website: harrispropertytaxes.org to access and see the proposed taxes on your property. The City's proposed budget and tax rate is also on the City's homepage bunkerhilltx.gov. The Proposed Budget also includes an increase in utility rates for 2022 and we are working with our contractor Texas Pride on rates for trash and recycling.

Public Safety continues as one of our top priorities and the majority of the budgeted expenses. The budget continues to focus on Fire, EMS and Police as well as our public infrastructure. As an example of public infrastructure, a new water well was drilled this Summer and will go into service next Fall (2022) to replace a well that served the City for 60+ years.

The City has been receiving more messages than normal from concerned citizens during this pandemic period. We have shared these on page 2 of the newsletter so we can all work together to address. Thank you for your efforts to be good neighbors!

Cordially,
Karen Glynn,
City Administrator

Upcoming Events in the Villages – *Save the Dates*

2022 Budget Public Hearings

City Hall or Via Zoom

Tuesday, September 21, 2021

5:30 p.m.

Proposed 2022 Budget
Proposed 2021 Tax Rate
Budget Adoption

City Hall Open House

Bunker Hill Village City Hall

Wednesday, October 13, 2021

Come and Go from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Visit with the Mayor, Council,

Committees, and Staff

To discuss Public Safety, Drainage,
Technology and More

Villages Recycling Event

Hedwig Village City Hall

Saturday, October 23, 2021

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Twinkle Light Parade

Major Streets

Throughout Bunker Hill

Thursday, December 16, 2021

Begins at 6:00 p.m.

Regular City Council Meetings *

Third Tuesdays

September 21 – October 19 – November 16

City Hall at 5:30 p.m.

* Agendas and Updates will be provided on the
City's website and v-linc.
Zoom meetings will continue.

From Your Neighbors

What are the hours for lawn care in the City? Do they apply to residents that do their own yards? What can they do on Sundays?

The City has an Ordinance regarding contractor hours which includes contractors for building construction as well as contractors for lawn services.

Contractor Hours Include the Following:

Monday - Friday

7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Saturday

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sundays and City Holidays

No work allowed

We have explained that this ordinance ***does not*** apply to residents who would like to do their own yard work or home repairs. Neighbors have suggested that everyone follow the construction hours and enjoy Sundays as a “**work free**” and “**noise free**” day for all!

Along the same line, the City has received calls regarding excessive noise caused by blowers and would like the City to consider prohibiting the use of large blowers.

This was discussed with the City Council and the Council would prefer not to impose this type of restrictions as this can be very difficult to enforce and can impact the cost of lawn services. Limiting times for these services as described above is already in place; however, if residents do their own yard work and blowing, please be considerate of the time of day (again, as noted above regarding Sundays).

A resident has questioned the ability for the City to restrict blowing grass into streets and especially was concerned with blowing and dumping into storm drains. These actions potentially clog our drains and scatter debris into our streets.

Blowing cut grass into our streets and ultimately our drainage system is very problematic via regulations with the Environmental Protection Agency administered through the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The City asks that you ***do not*** blow or put anything into the storm drains. Everything in the storm drain goes directly to Buffalo Bayou. Let's keep these drains clear for potential rain events and storm water.

The City has received a request to ask residents to stop using “Round Up” or certain weed killers on yards as this is killing the Honeybees in the area. Honeybees travel a 3-mile radius, and they are a critical part of our world food supply.

A resident has asked for requirements for putting trash out (*too early*) at the curb.

Currently, the City's Ordinance states that all household waste and yard refuse shall be placed at the pickup location no later than 7:00 a.m. for pick up that day. The City does not have additional restrictions at this time. Again, please be mindful of your neighbors and help keep the City neat and clean by not “**storing**” trash at the curb for days.

Thank you for sharing and for your consideration!!