



ARANSAS PASS CITY NEWS

Issue 27

January 2020



“The ISO ratings for the City are based mostly on Fire Department capabilities. When the City invests in maintaining and improving the effectiveness of the fire department it lowers that rating. A lower rating provides less expensive insurance rates for our citizens and makes the City a safer place to live.”

*-Nathan Kelley, Aransas Pass
Fire Chief*

CITY KEEPS ITS “4” FIRE ISO RATING

Aransas Pass has an excellent Fire Department ISO (Insurance Services Office) rating of “4” During a recent ISO review, the City was able to maintain that rating. The ISO is used by insurance companies in most states to evaluate fire departments for the purpose of establishing insurance premiums in the local areas. A rating of “1” , which is virtually only attainable in large cities, is the best. A rating of “10” is the worst. A “4” rating is a very strong position for Aransas Pass and that number reflects a highly qualified fire department. Pictured above are L to R : Fire Chief Nathan Kelley and Assistant Chief Nate Borrego, both of whom worked hard for the rating.





The City of Aransas Pass will be getting a long-needed street sweeper. It will look similar to the vehicle pictured above. The previous sweeper has been inoperative for many years. The cost for this state-of-the-art machine is \$270,470. It was obtained on a lease-purchase plan. The sweeper is part of the City's on-going community clean-up plan. It will arrive in January.

City Election is May 2, 2020

Aransas Pass residents will go to the polls on May 2, 2020 to elect Council Members Place 2 and Place 4. The candidate filling period begins on January 15, 2020 and ends on February 14, 2020. If you are not registered to vote, you must do so by April 2nd in order to cast your ballot in this election. Early voting will be conducted from April 20th through April 28th, 2020. Candidate packets can be obtained in the City Secretary's office.

Hurricane Damaged Apartments Are Re-Opening

Below is a picture of the Bayshore Apartments. You may recall this and other Aransas Pass Apartment communities being severely damaged by Hurricane Harvey. This is an example of housing complexes that are repaired and now re-opening. There are other Apartment complexes around Aransas Pass that also are restored after undergoing significant improvements. Housing is a high priority for the City and with the new apartments, and new single family homes being built, along with the repaired apartment complexes, the housing needs are beginning to be met.



More Evidence of Hurricane Recovery

The number of City utility customers is a good measurement of how the City is recovering from Hurricane Harvey. Just prior to the August 2017 hurricane, the City had 3,706 homes/businesses using City utilities. Within a few months the City of Aransas Pass dipped to a low of 3,306. In other words, 400 homes and apartments were destroyed or vacated because of Harvey. That translates to about 1,200 citizens. As of September and October of this year, we now have a customer base of 3,621.

That means we have rebuilt the customer base so it is within 85 homes of being back up to the pre-hurricane levels. During a recent City Council meeting it was stated that with the new single family homes and new and rebuilt apartments coming on line, it is quite possible, if not likely, that we will exceed our previous high, of 3,706. And maybe by a significant number within a year or two. If this trend holds, it will add credibility to the often heard phrase - "Aransas Pass will be stronger after the hurricane than before."

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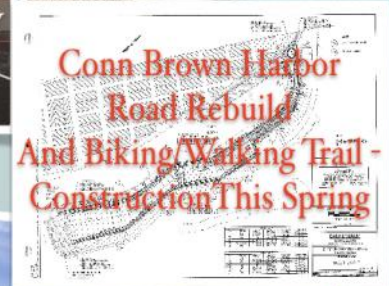
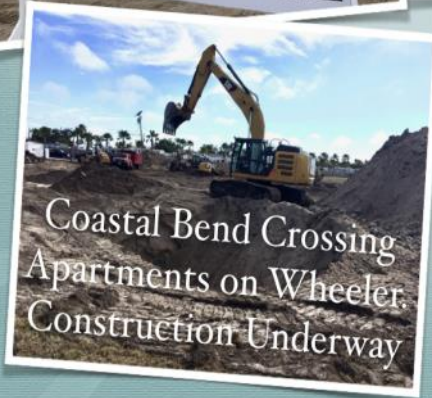
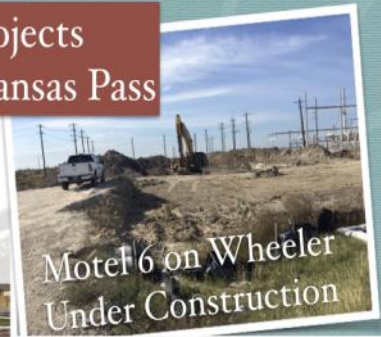


Fall Feast Continues to Break Attendance Records

780 plates were served in under 1 hour during the City's annual free Fall Festival. That was a record number of servings. 30 turkeys weighing 550 pounds with 150 pounds of potatoes were the highlight of the evening meal. The November 21st event was held in the Aransas Pass Civic Center. Sponsors included the Rotary Club, Women's Club, Chamber of Commerce, Dream Team Realtors, Crossroads Church, Creations by Hope, APISD NHS students and staff.



Here are a Few of the Non-FEMA Projects Either Underway or Beginning Soon in Aransas Pass



Many of the Aransas Pass Non-FEMA Projects Reflect Belief In Our Community—2020 Offers Exciting Promises

2020 Promises to be a huge year for Aransas Pass. In fact, 2020 will be a year that reflects a culmination of several years of work for the current City Council and Staff. The above examples are only a few of the non-FEMA ventures. Except for the Conn Brown project (which is funded by a \$5 mil grant from the Economic Development Administration) all of the above are being constructed by private enterprise. More are coming. These plans show the private sector's belief in the future of Aransas Pass. 2020 also will see the completion and start-ups of more FEMA projects. The new year should see more economic growth, not only locally, but in our entire region, which creates need for more housing in Aransas Pass. Apartments complexes that were shut down because of Harvey, are now coming back on line (see related story elsewhere in this newsletter).

City Council Approves Idea For Industrial Master Plan

During its December 16th meeting, the Aransas Pass City Council approved joining other area municipalities to prepare an industrial master plan for San Patricio County and the cities within the County. One City in Aransas County also is looking at joining. The purpose of the Plan is to allow Aransas Pass and nearby cities to speak with one voice when deciding what kinds of industrial plants they would like to see locate here. So far, four of the cities and San Patricio County have approved the idea of preparing the plan. The other cities have not yet voted on it. Area municipalities and San Patricio County believe more industries are coming to our immediate area and they want to provide direction for an orderly and well-planned growth.