



ARANSAS PASS CITY NEWS

Issue 28

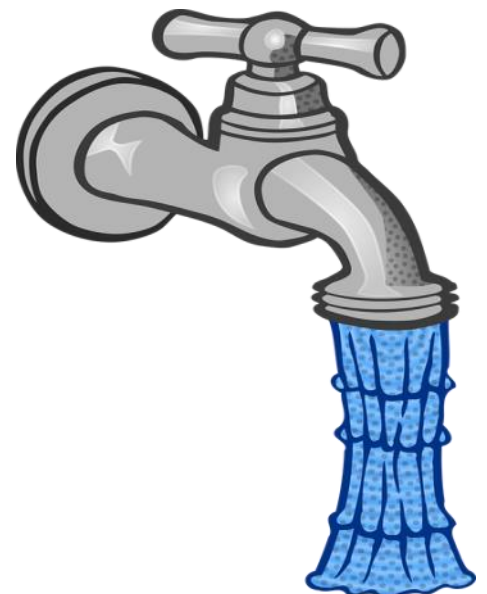
February 2020

LONG WATER LOSS HISTORY IS BEING CORRECTED

After many years of having an extremely high city water loss, that problem is being solved. A few years ago, the Mayor, City Council and staff started to tackle the City's long standing water loss problem. It has since become an annual goal and we are seeing steady progress. A City's water loss is measured by comparing how much water is produced/purchased to the amount of water sold to citizens. If more is being produced/purchased than what is being sold, that is a loss. What is happening to that unsold water? When there is a leak, and the amount of the leak can be measured, that is taken into consideration when figuring the loss. Nationally, an acceptable loss is about 10%. The Aransas Pass water loss had been in the area of 40% to 50%. That's correct, we were losing 40% to 50% of the water the City had been purchasing. The really unnerving part of that figure is the loss had been that high for many years. Maybe more than a decade. But the good news is that it is now down to an astounding 14%. This is based on reports from the Texas Water Development Board. Our goal for next year and subsequent years is to bring that number down to below the national average of 10%.

"It is important for a City to have a manageable water loss. For too many years, it has been unacceptably high, but it was never corrected. But now we believe we finally are headed in the right direction"..

*Fernando Quintanilla,
Public Works Director*





EOC AND ROOF CONSTRUCTION AT CITY HALL UNDERWAY

As can be seen in the above picture, the Aransas Pass City Council Chamber is undergoing significant changes. This room is where the bimonthly City Council meetings are held. Because of the generous support from the Rebuild Texas Fund, the City is able to convert the Council Chambers to a dual purpose room of an Emergency Operations Center (EOC), in addition to continuing service as the regular meeting location for the City Council. The project should be completed by May and will be able to withstand winds up to 175 MPH. At the same time the EOC work is taking place, contractors will be putting a new roof on City Hall. It was severely damaged during Hurricane Harvey. FEMA will pay for 90% of the roof work. That project also is scheduled to be completed by May.

COUNCIL MEETINGS TO TEMPORARILY RELOCATE

Because of the extensive construction work now underway at City Hall, City Council meetings will be held at the Civic Center. This arrangement will last for about 4 months.

NEW CITY STREET SWEEPER IS ON THE JOB

The City's new street sweeper is arrived and is in operation. Aransas Pass has been without a street sweeper for many years because the previous vehicle was inoperable. Current staff members say the new sweeper will be correctly maintained so that will last for many years. A sweeper will assist with the City's clean-up efforts. Pictured below is the new sweeper with city staff members being trained by a company instructor on how to operate and maintain this equipment.



“Chief Blanchard not only has a thorough understanding of customer service, but he is an excellent public servant when it comes to serving and protecting citizens during extraordinary events.”

Gary Edwards—City Manager

MARSHALL LANE WILL BE SCHEDULED FOR IMPROVEMENTS

Working in partnership with the County, the City of Aransas Pass Plans to Pave Marshall Lane during this calendar year. “In compliance with the Local Government Code, San Patricio County (Precinct 4) Road and Bridge Crew will work with the City to improve Marshall Lane”, said County Commissioner Howard Gillespie. This is the road that leads to the new Movies Inc. Theater and other businesses.



POLICE CHIEF BLANCHARD NAMED EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

On January 24th, during the annual Aransas Pass Chamber of Commerce banquet, Police Chief Eric Blanchard was named employee of the year. The decision by City Manager Gary Edwards to bestow this honor on Chief Blanchard was based on two measurements: (1) How his department’s day-to-day operation is conducted; and, (2) how he responds to extraordinary events. This is the second time Blanchard has received this award. The first time was several years prior to Hurricane Harvey, so this presentation was an acknowledgement of his excellent community service during the storm in addition to the recognition of an excellently run department. Please see photo above. Left to right: City Manager Gary Edwards and Police Chief Eric Blanchard.

RENOVATED DOG PARK NOW OPEN

Responding to citizen complaints that the City Dog Park facility was not very “dog friendly”, a renovation of that facility is now complete and the complex is open to city residents. Below is a drone picture of the new Aransas Pass Dog Park. It is located near the Aquatics Center. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on January 30th.



ARANSAS PASS POLICE OFFICERS RECOGNIZED FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE

Another example of exceptional public service by the Aransas Pass Police Department is the Lifesaving Award received by several of the City’s officers. The awards were given during the January 6th City Council meeting by Police Chief Eric Blanchard. Left to right: Chief Blanchard; Telecommunications Officer Kassandra Rivera (who received the Chief’s Citation Award); Officer Christa Rasor; Officer Jack McCarty; Officer in Training Jason Bauer, and Sgt Aaron Jones. All pictured were key figures in saving a local life



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Side note: AWS wastehauling spent 4.5 days picking up brush at vacant lots by the end of December. Altogether, 5 days and 12 loads were delivered to Dawson recycling this winter.