



# ARANSAS PASS CITY NEWS

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## The Harbormaster Building Is An Investment In The Future

The full price for the Harbormaster building is \$654,224. FEMA pays 90% of that cost. Normally, the City would pay the 10% balance. However, the State has agreed to pay for 75% of our 10%. This means the City's out-of-pocket cost for the building is right at \$16 thousand 355 dollars. Another way to look at it is that the City is paying \$16,355 for a \$654,224 building. Those FEMA and State Funds can not be spent on anything except the Harbormaster building. This project has been reviewed and approved over the past 18 months by multiple layers of FEMA and State officials before giving us the final go-ahead. Below is an early rendering of the front of the new building to be located next to the large boat barn on Huff Street at Conn Brown Harbor. The original Harbormaster building was literally blown away by Hurricane Harvey.

*"When Harvey blew the original Harbormaster building off the face of the earth, we immediately began to work for a replacement. The new building provides office and warehouse space for the Harbormaster and also serves as a police substation. This location gives the Harbor master visibility up and down the harbor and more of a police presence at the harbor. It also provides a location for visitors to get information about the Harbor and Aransas Pass."*

*Chuck West , Harbor-master.*



**SEE LAST PAGE FOR COVID-19 UPDATE**



## The AP Aquatic Center is Open

**(Pool staff will continue to monitor the pandemic)**

The Aransas Pass Aquatic Center opened to the public on June 12th with modified hours and operating procedures (see above pic) . Aquatic staff will continue to work to ensure that safe practices are maintained for the health of patrons. Staff will continue to monitor the pandemic and phase-in normal operations, if the current conditions at the time permit.

The current schedule for recreational swimming (weather permitting):

- Thursday-Sunday two swim time slots available: 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM and 1:30 PM to 4::30 PM.
- Admission for each time slot is \$5 dollars
- Total pool capacity is limited for each time slot.
- Staff vacates swimmers after each time slot to clean and sanitize the entire pool area.

## A CBH Pathway Finally Becomes a Real Road and Honors a Former Employee

What had been nothing more than a dirt pathway, will become a paved road with the improvements at Conn Brown Harbor (CBH). It's called "Haines Way" and is named after former Assistant Police Chief William "Bill" Haines. Haines began work with the Aransas Pass PD in 1996. He also served as Assistant to the City Manager and as Harbor Master. When completed, this section of road will make the first completed road connection between what had been Allen Blvd and the Harbor Point parking lot. In addition to this new connection being called, Haines Way, all of Allen Blvd has been designated Haines Way. Picture below shows the first ever road connection to the Harbor Point Parking lot. As part of this project , it will be paved with curb and gutters.



## Contact Us

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[gedwards@aptx.gov](mailto:gedwards@aptx.gov)

## Water Tower Lights Now Installed

The New water tower lights, which illuminate the city logo, are now installed and operable. The poles and lights were put into place on June 30th and tested that evening. The picture below was taken at that time. The original water tower was destroyed by Hurricane Harvey.



## City Budget Process At Full Steam

Seen above is a picture of the June 30th budget meeting with the Aransas Pass Fire Department and the City Budget Committee. City Councilmember Vicki Abrego serves on this committee and has for the past three years. For the past three years, the budget process includes meetings with all department heads and the budget committee. At these sessions, it is up to the department heads to defend their requests for the upcoming fiscal year budget. This is the time of the year that every line item in the 100+ page budget document is scrutinized. The next step in this annual process is the budget review for the City Council on June 14th. Also upcoming are a City Council budget work session, a public hearing and presentations to the City Council. The final budget will be adopted in September.



## **Aransas Pass Mayor Ram Gomez on Covid-19**

Mayor Gomez re-started publishing his daily Covid-19 reports since the recent increase in positive cases. The daily reports can be found on Facebook and the City Webpage. Below are some recent developments:

- In San Patricio County, the immediate risk of contacting the virus has moved two steps up the ladder from minimal to low to the current position of intermediate.
- On June 30th, 28 new cases were reported in San Patricio. That is the highest number yet. The total case count in San Patricio is 161,
- San Patricio County has issued a Face Mask Order mandating all employees or visitors in business establishments to wear a face covering. The Order went into effect on July 1st. Aransas County also has issued a Face Mask Order.
- As of the morning of July 1st, the July 2nd, 2020 Fireworks celebration is still scheduled. It is set for dusk on July 2nd. It can be seen from all over town, It is not necessary to go to Conn Brown Harbor to see the display. Those who go to CBH are asked to remain in their cars, wear masks and practice social distancing. Announcements about the fireworks before and after the show can be heard on radio frequency 90.1. Music that is synchronized with the fireworks can also be heard on that Frequency.
- City Parks currently are open.