



# ARANSAS PASS CITY NEWS

Issue 13

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## COMING TO ARANSAS PASS IN THE SUMMER OF 2019!

A movie theater is coming to Aransas Pass. It is a Movies Inc Company. The theater shown above is a smaller version of what will be in Aransas Pass. The one in our City will be larger. The facility will be in the area of the Allen Samuels dealership off of Hwy 35.



## SIGN-UP FOR EMERGENCY ALERTS

During the recent boil order, we received several complaints that many people did not know about the order for several days. That is a fair complaint. We put the word out on Facebook, the reverse 9-1-1 Emergency system and area news media, but you can always use more communications. A good tool for this is the reverse 9-1-1, but you have to be signed up for this service before it can be used. To subscribe contact:

<https://ap-police.com/contact-us/sign-up-for-emergency-alerts/>

Once you complete and submit the form, it will take about 48-72 hours to become active.





## **WORK ON THE CONN BROWN ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES IS WELL UNDERWAY**

For many years significant development has been discouraged at the Beautiful Conn Brown Harbor because of environmental problems dating back to the shrimp boat days. It got to the point where several years ago, the Texas General Land Office (GLO) put liens on most of Conn Brown until the City corrected the environmental issues. The current Mayor and Council pinpointed the three problems, with Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) input. Three main problem areas were identified. Then the City hired an engineering firm to oversee the remediation process. The three major problem areas are: 1. The old Gulf King site, off Huff Street. Work at this location is essentially complete. 2. The Coastline Site, near the large green tanks. This problem area is nearing completion. In the picture above, these men are working at the Coastline site. 3. Finally, there is the old JBS site, located on Bigelow. This site is requiring most of our attention, but measureable progress is being made. Barring unforeseen developments, we are a few months away from all the three worksites being completed. Conn Brown has been called the last undeveloped piece of public property on the Coastal Bend. If all goes as planned, that can begin to change within this Fiscal Year.

## **Why Was The Recent Boil Order Necessary?**

The recent Boil Order (which was lifted on October 18th) came on the heels of unprecedented amounts of rain. When The City's elevated water tower collapsed during Hurricane Harvey we were forced to use the ground storage tanks as our water source. However, without the water pressure that comes with an elevated tank, we are required to use pumps to distribute water from the ground storage tanks throughout the City. When we have a power failure these pumps stop operating and water stops flowing creating the need for a boil order. And that is what happened. There was a power failure. We immediately tested the water and it was OK, but working with the State Environmental Quality Department, it was decided to issue the Boil Order as a precaution. We are working with FEMA to get some emergency generators here in the event it happens again. These are huge generators that have to be delivered by 18 wheeler trucks. By the way, when the elevated water tank is completed the pumps will not be needed.



**THE FINAL DRAFT OF THE CITY'S  
FIRST COMPREHENSIVE PLAN  
AND ITS RELATED DOCUMENTS  
ARE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC VIEWING  
ON THE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES PAGE  
AT THE CITY WEBSITE**

## HOW YOU CAN HELP WITH THE CITY DRAINAGE PROBLEM

There are some important things citizens can do right now that will help the City drainage problem. First, when mowing the lawn, do not shoot the grass clippings into the street. They will cause storm drains to clog and could cause sanitary sewers to back-up into homes. See picture below taken here in town. After this picture was taken an out-of-town lawn service was seen blowing large amounts of grass clippings onto a city Street. They were asked to sweep them up. Secondly, when you see a storm drain covered with debris, call City Hall, or, if not too excessive, feel free to remove the debris.



## THE EXCESSIVE RAIN IS PUTTING A STRAIN ON OUR OLD AND OVERBURDENED DRAINAGE SYSTEM

The backyard shown above is one of the calls received. This happened all over town. Extraordinary, if not biblical-like rains seem to be occurring every year. In 2016 a major weather event caused massive flooding. Of course, we had Hurricane Harvey in 2017 with its immense amount of moisture and resulting floods. In 2018, the heavy rains started earlier this year and returned in September and October. Complaints about flooded yards, flooded streets and sometimes, backed up sewers start pouring into City Hall after a major rain event. However, the ground has been saturated, so there is no place for the water to go, but higher. Remember, the highest point in the city is 23 feet with the average citywide being 16 feet. **It is important to realize that the size of these remarkable storms often times make it impossible to control drainage even with the best of systems.** They can overpower our drainage system. The City is taking steps to start a city-wide drainage study. One has never been done here. This will allow us to locate, prioritize and put a price tag on the trouble spots. In sum, citywide drainage is one of those situations faced by many cities. It took Aransas Pass decades to get to this point where repairs and improvements can't be delayed any longer; and it will take many years to solve these problems, **but it can be done.** For an explanation of the City's drainage system you may want to watch a short video on the City Webpage. Search for "informational videos" then click on "How Our Storm Drainage System Works" **UPDATE: After the drainage study is complete, we are working with FEMA to assist with repairing the Hurricane Harvey related drainage system damage.**

**LOCAL WEATHER AVAILABLE  
ON CITY WEBPAGE,  
SEE "VISITING" SECTION**



## New Pumps Have Arrived

The City of Aransas Pass recently purchased three much needed storm-water pumps. Previously, whenever a rainstorm was predicted, the City would have to quickly rent two or three mobile pumps to back-up the City's permanent drainage pumps. However, working in cooperation with the San Patricio County Drainage District, Aransas Pass was able to purchase the three stormwater pumps with trailers shown above. The Drainage District provides funding to the City for qualified drainage projects. The pumps were approved for purchase by the district and by the Aransas Pass City Council with an engineer confirming the pumps would assist the City's drainage system during heavy rains.

Prior to the purchase of these pumps, the City had to hope rental pumps would be available when a storm was approaching. And we don't have to be concerned about not being able to obtain pumps if an unexpected storm arrives in the middle of the night. These pumps are different from the water distribution pumps.



## Contact Us

Aransas Pass City News is published by the City of Aransas Pass, Tx. If you would like to subscribe or unsubscribe contact:

gedwards@aransaspasstx.gov

WHO ARE YOUR MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

1. Mayor Ram Gomez
2. Carrie Scruggs Place 1
3. Mayor Pro-Tem Billy Ellis Place 2
4. Jan Moore-Place 3
5. Vicki Abrego-Place 4

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WATER TOWER CONSTRUCTION TO BEGIN

After fighting months of red-tape, construction will soon start on the City's elevated water tank. The structure collapsed during Hurricane Harvey. Instead of staying with the previous design of a multi-legged structure, the City will build, with the help of FEMA, a more modern single stemmed structure. See picture below.

