



ARANSAS PASS CITY NEWS

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BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED

The City of Aransas Pass is in constant need of citizens to serve on municipal board and commissions. This is a great way to serve your community. Some of the boards and commissions frequently in search of members are Planning and Zoning, Board of Adjustments, Building Standards and Appeals, Housing Authority, Memorial Commission, the Crime Control Board; the Municipal Development District, and the Citizens Hotel/Motel Tax Review Committee. If you would like to be considered for an appointment to one of these boards, commissions or committees, contact the Aransas Pass City Secretary at 361-758-5301. Email: citysecretary@aransaspasstx.gov

WE WANT YOU!



ELECTION IS SET FOR MAY 4th

The Municipal candidates and their order on the May 4th Ballot are as follows: Mayor: Ram Gomez, Tommy Knight and Adan Chapa. Councilmember Place 1: Eric Kindervater, Carrie Scruggs. Councilmember Place 3 Jan Moore is unopposed. Early voting will be from April 22nd through April 30th. There also is a Proposition on the May 4th ballot: "Whether the Aransas Pass Crime Control and Prevention District should be continued for 10 years and the Crime Control and Prevention District Sales and Use Tax should be continued for 10 years."



CITY MEETS WEEKLY WITH FEMA ON HURRI- CANE RECOVERY

Because of the huge amount of Federal red-tape involved, the City meets on a weekly basis with FEMA officials to review the status of recovery projects. To the left, see picture of the February 26th meeting. As of that date, the City and FEMA are working on 38 Aransas Pass projects. That number is steadily declining.



Deberry Work Nearing

Completion

The street work on Deberry (see above picture) near the intersection with Commercial is for the repair of 900 linear feet of sanitary sewer line. This project is needed because the sanitary sewer line was an old clay pipe that had several failures and longitudinal cracks. The total cost of the project is \$176,000 and is being funded through a tax note. The contractor, J.J. Fox Construction, is nearing completion. Once the work is finished, city crews will go in and pave the portion of street removed for the project. The job should be completed by March 22nd.

CANDLEWOOD SUITES COM- ING TO ARANSAS PASS

During Hurricane Harvey, the Hawthorne Suites, on Goodnight Ave., was severely damaged and the previous owners decided not to reopen. Instead, the property was purchased by others and is being extensively renovated and converted to the Candlewood Suites (see pic below). The owners have been working closely with City staff on inspections and building requirements. Construction on this new Marriott property is now well underway. Candlewood Suites are recognized nationwide as a leader in the hospitality industry.



MAYOR GOMEZ MEETS WITH OUR LEGISLATORS

Mayor Ram Gomez was in Austin on February 27th with other Aransas Pass community leaders lobbying for City issues. Mayor Gomez is seen in this picture with State Representative J.M. Lozano, who represents Aransas Pass. The Mayor took the opportunity to discuss numerous local government and Aransas Pass issues with several state legislators.



MUNICIPAL COURT EMPLOYEE RECOGNIZED

Milagros (Milly) Medina (right) was recognized during the February 18th City Council meeting by Municipal Judge Henrie Morales (center) and Mayor Ram Gomez for completing Level 1 Certification for Municipal Court Clerk. Milly has previously been recognized statewide as the outstanding Court Clerk for a small city.

WHY WAS THE FEB 28th BOIL ORDER NECESSARY?

Simply put, the water system had a leak that could not be located. The leak resulted in low water pressure in part of North Aransas Pass. As a precaution, TCEQ required the City to impose a citywide water boil order. This boil order is not the result of being without an elevated water tank. When the boil order is lifted citizens will be notified by Reverse 911, Facebook and the City webpage.



THE LION’S CLUB PAID FOR TWO SCOREBOARDS

With grant money from the Lion’s Club, two little league ballfield scoreboards have been replaced. Both, which are pictured above and below, are now installed. Pictured above is Sherman King, Past Lion’s Club President and construction coordinator. The Lion’s club also will be paying for upcoming work at Harbor Point Park at Conn Brown.



SALES TAX COMPARISONS WILL CHANGE

Overall revenues collected for the month did not meet the budget benchmark. In the graphs below you can see how the sales taxes and property taxes are doing year-to-date. However, expenditures were down to more than make up for the less than expected revenues. Of course, property taxes are doing well when compared to 2018 and 2017. See property tax bar graph.

This was expected because of the all the hurricane repair and replacement work. But sales taxes are down compared to 2018, but not 2017 (see sales tax bar graph). Looking at the sales tax picture more closely, it is clear that 2018 is an anomaly. It is an unusual year because local citizens were spending large amounts of money to repair their properties due to Hurricane Harvey damage. Now that those 2018 repairs are being completed, sales tax in 2019 is down. Consequently, beginning in February of this year, we have started comparing 2019 sales tax returns to the pre-hurricane 2017 instead of 2018. That is a more accurate comparison. By using that measurement, sales taxes are up for the month and the year-to-date.

