Message from the Mayor

Dear Citizens:

Happy New Year to all of you, and welcome to our 1st edition of the [Texas City Newsletter]! I am excited to join our marketing staff in rolling out this new form of communication with our citizens as an additional effort to keep you informed and proud to be a part of this great city of Texas City! I know that 2020 presented us with challenges that seemed insurmountable at times, however, it appears there is light at the end of the tunnel.

We usher in 2021 with some great new changes! As mayor, I’m proud to be one of those significant changes that will reflect our renewed commitment to growth and collaborations between various components of our community. Congratulations to our newly elected city commissioners who will work together with me, to further the goals of this city! I strongly believe that we will certainly be BETTER TOGETHER and want to encourage all those who are willing and able to become active in your city’s progress. By this time next month we will announce our steering committee for our Comprehensive Community Engagement Plan, which will outline this city’s vision for the next 10 years or so. I’m excited that the new flyover on the west end of Emmitt F. Lowry Express way is now complete! We have transitioned to other phases of our highway improvement in order to better serve you with a safe and efficient commute. We are progressing with more phases of the new Lago Mar Community that includes more residential and commercial development. But not only that... we are in the beginning phases of developing other areas of the community with more affordable housing, as many more are desiring to make Texas City their new home.

We have just approved the hiring of 6 additional police officers with plans on adding more in the near future with a focus on community oriented policing. Our code enforcement programs continue to work with you on eliminating eyesores and cleaning up dangerous structures throughout the city. This is paramount as we strive to keep Texas City a safe and beautiful place to live, work, and play.

The Texas City Economic Development Corporation continues to assist with potential commercial opportunities. We will soon welcome the JMK5 product of Mainland City Centre with new restaurants and amenities that include family, entertainment, education, fitness and more! I am super excited and you will be too, if you’re not already! So much is in store for 2021, but let me remind you that the coronavirus still lingers on. As vaccines are being approved for distribution, we’ll continue cautiously with all the protocols in place to eliminate this pandemic once and for all. THIS is our year... to beat this pandemic and return to life as we once knew it as a great city of festivals, parades, family and sporting events, religious gatherings, and economic growth.

Enjoy this newsletter. We look forward to your constructive feedback as we work to better serve you daily.

Dedrick D. Johnson
Mayor
January Events

1

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Wishing you and yours a safe, healthy, happy, and prosperous new year! WE MADE IT!

2

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 18, 2021

3

Rotary Club Mardi Gras Ball

January 30, 2021

At the Ball you will be provided with a delicious dinner, open bar, silent and live auctions and continuous music throughout the evening featuring the Mambo Jazz Kings, a local premier band. For questions call: 409.939.5575

Meet the Commissioners

Commissioner At-Large
Mayor Pro Tem
Thelma Bowie

Commissioner At-Large
Kevin Yackly

District 1
Keith Henry

District 2
Felix Herrera

District 3
Dorthea Jones Pointer

District 4
Jami Clark
City Updates

Economic Development

1. Texas City Live Bar & Grill
Texas City's only outdoor live music venue is now open on 6th street. Serving cold beer, liquor, gourmet bar food and bringing the best of national, regional and local bands.

2. Terror Isle
A new "horror themed" escape room will be coming soon to 6th street in 2021. Terror Isle will feature haunted rooms that include pirates, zombies, hellhounds and creatures from your nightmares!

3. Gulf Coast Ammonia
Gulf Coast Ammonia is an agricultural and commodity chemical manufacturing company. Air Products is a world-leading industrial gas company. This new project will bring more than 40 permanent jobs and 1,000 construction jobs at peak, as well as economic growth to Texas City and the region.

Public Works Projects

1. Drainage Project
A major drainage project in the 2100 block of 29th Street is in progress. This work will double the amount of water that can be carried to the large drainage ditch behind Carlos Garza Park. The additional storm piping will not only allow 29th St. to drain faster, but it will help minimize flooding on the side streets in the area.

2. Biosphere
Improvements are being made to the Biosphere Recycling Center. Concrete paving was installed on the west side of the site. The concrete provides a much better driving surface for our citizens while ensuring proper drainage. We greatly appreciate everyone's patience during our construction phase, and we expect to have everything back to normal operations soon.

3. New Public Works Building
The Public Works Department will be moving in January. Our new office will be located at 7800 Emmett F. Lowry Expressway (the old Daily News Building). We love our old building at 301 6th St., but this move will allow us to be much more accommodating to our citizens while placing us closer to the geographic center of the City. We hope to be fully moved in by January 15, 2021.
Trent is the Parks, Recreation and Tourism Facility Crew Leader. Trent is responsible for making sure that rooms are set-up for reservations such as weddings, meetings and banquets. As well, Trent is in charge of making sure that the parks and recreation facilities are clean and in orderly condition for daily use.
Dedicated on June 20, 2019, Texas City’s **African American Cultural Park** honors the African American heritage of this town. In the center is a statue of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. There are several displays about the former and current churches which are in the area.

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**Library Luke’s Book of the Month**

**Elizabeth Strout**

*Olive, Again*

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize

*a novel*

Olive, Again by Elizabeth Strout

My absolute favorite book that I read in 2020 came out in 2019. (I am always hopelessly behind in my reading). But it’s too good not to recommend any year. Olive, Again is more Olive from the acclaimed novel Olive Kitteridge by the same author. Both novels are told as a collection of interconnected short stories from different points of view. This gives us a way of looking at an entire community through an ever expanding prism. It makes for a beautiful and insightful statement on themes of identity, loss, trauma, and grief. Don’t miss it (like I almost did)!

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**Moore Memorial Public Library**

**Programs**

Zoom Cookbook & Take-home Spice Club - January theme: Cinnamon & Muffins - Meet-up January 21st - Time TBD Saturday, January 23rd @ 2PM

Zoom Program: Overcoming Stress and Anxiety Using Meditation with Daya Sharma

The Children’s Department is offering take-home programming kits for ages 3 – 12. Preschoolers can grab Busy Bags while kids ages 8 – 12 can take home a monthly LitKit.

Monthly Grab n’ Go programming kits are available for teens ages 12 – 18.

We’ll also play Among Us on January 29th.

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Libby is your source for library ebooks, audio books, magazines, and videos. Download the Libby app and use your library card to access Libby’s catalog through The Moore Memorial Public Library.
Winter Landscaping

Winter is a great time to Trim back your Trees, Shrubs and Roses! Winter landscape projects are good as well allowing plants to establish before summer. This time of year is a great time to plant or transplant Shrubs and Trees as well.

Mark’s Tip

Safety Tip

Carbon monoxide poisonings increase during winter months and with colder temps around the corner, now is the best time to check your heating systems.

Follow these tips to keep your home safe & warm:

- Install CO alarms in a central location outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home if multistory. Follow the manufacturer’s instructions for placement and mounting height.
- Always have a qualified technician annually inspect your heating system and chimneys.
- NEVER use a gas oven to heat your home, even for a short period of time.
- Generator use should always be outdoors in well-ventilated locations. It is recommended that the generator be more than 20 ft away from windows, doors and vent openings.
- DO NOT run a vehicle or other fueled engine or motor indoors, even if garage doors are open. Some newer vehicle engines are very quiet, ensure that you have shut the vehicle off before walking away!