

City Manager Update – 2/8/19

The City survived the two-day post-apocalyptic zombie television series shoot “Fear the Walking Dead” on January 17th-18th. The 200-member cast and crew spent money buying food, drinks, and supplies at several establishments throughout town during the shoot. In addition, some of the crew members stayed at the Katy House. Hopefully, this will reflect positively on our sales tax and Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) receipts for March. The Rec Center multi-purpose room was used for catering and several city-owned parking lots were rented for equipment staging and cast holding. The production company will be back in town on February 20th for additional filming. There will be street closures at the intersection of NW 2nd and Ramona that will be communicated to the public well in advance of the shoot. This will be the 4th episode of the series shot in our community. Ironically, the film permit fees the City has received from the production company will be used to purchase cemetery software. Here is a link to the FTWD website → <https://www.amc.com/shows/fear-the-walking-dead> for more information about the series.

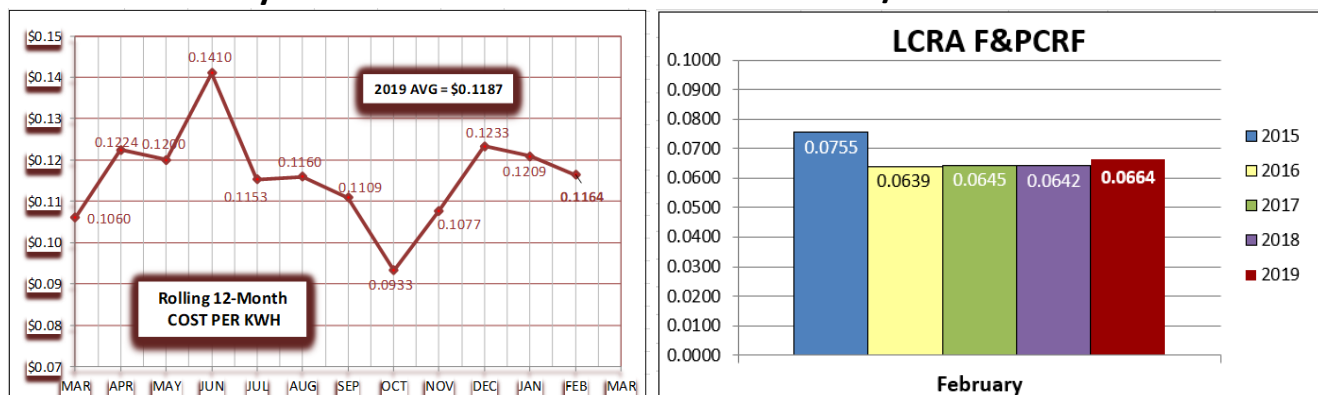
Construction of the new 120-bed nursing home continues with foundation work completed and framing underway (SEE PHOTOS). Repairs to Hill Road were completed last month to fix damage to the roadway (and curbing) caused by heavy equipment trucks accessing the construction site. The cost for these repairs was paid by the construction contractor building the nursing home. The estimated completion date for the nursing home project is November 2019. The Hurta River Estates project is progressing nicely despite numerous rain delays. Water, sewer, and utility lines have been installed. Curbs and gutters are finished and the roadway(s) have all been paved. Fencing and streetlight installation will be complete in the next few weeks. Approximately 10-12 lots of the 50-home subdivision already have contracts pending. This project will provide much needed housing for our community. Information regarding lot sales can be obtained by calling 512-517-4707 or by visiting the Hurta River Estates website at <http://hurtariverestates.com/>. (SEE PHOTOS)

With less than a month to go, Smithville is still leading the competition in the “extra small” community category (population < 5,000) for the “IT’S TIME TEXAS Community Challenge”. Dripping Springs and Liberty Hill are currently in 2nd and 3rd place behind Smithville. Each year, H-E-B sponsors the free, state-wide competition in which Texas communities compete to see which communities can demonstrate the greatest commitment to healthy living. The winning community in each size category will receive an \$1,800 community grant to put toward future health-related efforts, along with a trophy, school district banner, and Governor's certificate. Approximately 300 community members from Smithville have registered to participate. Thanks to all who are participating in this competition. If you have not yet registered, there is still time to participate → Go to <https://ittcommunitychallenge.com/> to register and join the challenge!

Below you will find a list of accomplishments, activities, and future plans since my last report:

- 1) Residential Cost Per Kilowatt Hour (kWh) Calculated** – An analysis of LCRA billing data was conducted to determine residential cost per kilowatt hour (kWh) in February. LCRA fuel costs vary month to month and are based upon utility generation, transmission, line loss, and service fees. The LCRA fuel cost per kWh for February is \$0.0664. This represents a **6.73% DECREASE** compared to January’s fuel cost of \$0.0709. Adding the City’s distribution fee of \$0.0500 and LCRA’s \$0.0664 fuel cost, the cost per kWh for residential service in Smithville during FEBRUARY will be \$0.1164. Below you will find a “rolling” 12-month residential cost per kWh and a fuel cost comparison chart. As you can see, fuel cost for the past 5-years in February are relatively consistent. On average, the cost per kWh for residential electric service in Smithville is between 11-12 cents.

City of Smithville Residential Cost Per kWh / LCRA F&PCRF



Note: LCRA Fuel & Power Cost Recovery Factor (See Table Above) + City Distribution Fee* (\$0.0500) = Cost / kWh

*Residential Distribution Fee Increase of \$0.005 Approved by City Council on October 1, 2017

City Manager Update – 2/9/18 (continued)

- 2) **EIA-861 Annual Electric Power Industry Annual Report Submitted** – Belinda Castilleja and Nadine Harris completed the 2018 Energy Information Administration's (EIA) Form EIA-861, "Annual Electric Power Industry Report." The annual report identifies the revenue generated, Megawatt Hours (MWh) used, and the number of customers for whom the City of Smithville provided power during 2018. Here is a summary of electricity usage from 2014-2018:

City of Smithville Electric Power Use	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Revenue (\$USD)	\$4,764,000	\$4,983,000	\$4,847,000	\$4,695,000	\$5,053,000
Megawatt Hours (MWh)	40,106	39,606	37,430	38,568	39,798
# of Customers	2111	2132	2155	2169	2194

As you can see by the data, we had a slight increase in the number of utility customers served in 2018 (we added 25 new customers). The City's consumption in megawatt hours (MWh) was 3.2% higher in 2018 compared to 2017. In addition, there was an 7.6% INCREASE in revenue of \$358k compared to the prior year. EIA Electric Surveys are mandatory under the authority of the Federal Energy Administration Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-275), as amended. Failure to respond may result in a penalty of not more than \$2,750 per day for each civil violation, or a fine of not more than \$5,000 per day for each criminal violation. Despite numerous problems with the on-line database, the report has been compiled and submitted well before the April 30, 2019 deadline. Nice work Belinda and Nadine!

- 3) **TDA-CDBG Water Line Upgrade Project** – Mercer Construction Co., Inc. began construction on a water line upgrade on MLK last week. If you recall, the City received a Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) last year for city-wide water system improvements. The \$300k grant (with 15% match) will be used to construct a 10-inch water line (and associated improvements) that runs from just south of the railroad tracks at Miller Street to the intersection of 4th and Lynch. The larger, looped distribution system will help increase water pressure, water flow, and fire protection on the south side of town. Currently, the largest diameter water line serving the south side is 6-inches. Construction will take an estimated 175 days to complete.
- 4) **City of Smithville Sales Tax Update** - Below are the sales tax allocations for February 2019 vs. February 2018 (retail sales made primarily in December). This data reflects RETAIL sales of goods and services subject to LOCAL sales tax. Our sales tax payment (receipt) for February was \$59,926. This represents a **7.52% DECREASE** in our net payment compared to the same time last year. Sales tax dollars are used to make street / road repairs and help pay for community services like FIRE and POLICE. Remember...SHOP LOCAL - it makes a difference!!!

Bastrop County Tax Allocation - February 2019

County/City	Current Rate	Net Payment This Period	Comparable Payment Prior Year	% Change	2019 Payments To Date	2018 Payments To Date	% Change
Bastrop	1.50%	\$722,870	\$715,165	1.07%	\$1,262,705	\$1,292,407	-2.29%
Elgin	1.50%	\$196,513	\$203,297	-3.33%	\$362,965	\$382,474	-5.10%
Smithville	1.50%	\$59,926	\$64,805	-7.52%	\$99,251	\$113,206	-12.32%
County Total		\$979,310	\$983,267	-0.40%	\$1,724,921	\$1,788,087	-3.66%

- 5) **City Officials Tour Smithville Food Pantry** - City officials and staff visited the Smithville Food Pantry located on 301 Lee street for a facility tour on Wednesday, February 6, 2019. The Smithville Food Pantry is a 501C3 non-profit organization whose mission and vision are to serve as a source of supplemental nutrition for elderly, disabled, or low-income families in the Smithville area. The Smithville Food Pantry is open every Wednesday from 9:00 am to 11:30 pm. Approximately 100 residents visit each week to pick-up canned goods, bread, fruits and vegetables. DONATIONS of canned fruits or canned soups are appreciated. The Food Pantry also needs plastic grocery bags and reusable canvas grocery bags. These items can be brought to the building at 301 Lee street on Wednesday mornings. The Food Pantry also accepts monetary DONATIONS at P.O. Box 433, Smithville, TX 78957. Volunteers are always welcome on Wednesday mornings serving those who request food and on Monday or Friday mornings helping unload the truck containing retail food donations. Contact 512-237-2322 or visit the Smithville Food Pantry website at <http://www.smithvillefoodpantry.com/contact-us.html> for more information.

City Manager Update – 2/9/18 (continued)

There are several events / activities planned this weekend and the next few weeks in Smithville:

The **Smithville Eco-Fest** will take place on **Saturday, February 9, 2019** from 10am to 4pm on Main Street. Eco-Fest is an active, informative event that includes a HALF K run – the “run for the rest of us” beginning at the Gazebo at 10am. There will be a bike rodeo and bicycle repair workshop. There will also be a tourism roundtable from 2pm to 4pm at City Hall. (317 Main). Info online at: www.facebook.com/SummitSmithville or www.smithvilletx.org. Eco-Fest is sponsored by the Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce (Keep Smithville Beautiful Committee) and the City of Smithville (Smithville Public Library). You can also click on the following link → <https://www.facebook.com/events/542546242825642/>.

The **BEST County-wide breakfast** will be held in Elgin (location TBD) on **Friday, February 22, 2019** from 8:00 to 9:30 am. Please let Brenda or I know if you plan to attend so we can get an accurate headcount for breakfast.

The **Smithville Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet** will be held on **Saturday, February 23, 2019** from 6pm-9pm at the Smithville REC Center. The highlights of the night are the announcement of the Citizen of the Year; the Business of the Year; the Organization of the Year and Artist of the Year. The Artist of the Year is given by the Richard D. Latham Cultural District of Smithville Texas. The meal will be catered by Jon Chabot “The Caterer”. The City is sponsoring two tables for City officials and staff. Many thanks to this year’s Title Sponsor Farmers Insurance, Scott Saunders agent. Call (512) 237-2313 for tickets or for information on how to sponsor or visit www.smithvilletx.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- **February 9th**, 10:30am – RIBBON CUTTING for Micklethwait’s Market & Grocery, 114 NE 2nd St.
- **February 13th**, 7:30am: COFFEE CHAT (Mayor Saunders guest speaker), Olde World Bakery, 112 Main (all are invited to attend)
- **February 14th**: Valentine’s Day
- **February 18th**: President’s Day. City offices will be CLOSED. Hours will be 8-5 Tuesday to Friday.
- **February 21st**: Chamber February Mixer. Co-sponsored by Golden Girls Boutique/J&M Gold Cart Rentals – includes ribbon cutting for J&M at 6pm (at Golden Girls, 114 Main)
- **February 22nd**, 8:00 am: BEST Breakfast in Elgin (location TBD)
- **February 23rd**: 96th Annual Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet, 6pm – 9pm, Smithville Recreation & Event Center (cocktail attire) – Tickets at www.smithvilletx.org
- **February 25th**: RIBBON CUTTING to celebrate the FIVE-YEAR anniversary of Larry’s Barber Shop as well as Jamie’s Home Help (a residential & commercial janitorial service). Come help us celebrate an established business as well as a new business! 600 NE Loop 230 in Smithville, 5:30pm – food and beverages will be served.

As a reminder, City Hall will be CLOSED – **Monday, February 18, 2019** in honor of President’s Day. Office hours will be 8-5 Tuesday through Friday (Feb 19-22).

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information. Have a great weekend. Stay warm and have a Happy Valentine’s Day!

--Robert--



PHOTOS - 2/8/19

Hurta Subdivision Project



Walk-to-School Wednesday



Towers Nursing Home Project



Smithville Food Pantry Tour

