

City Manager Update – 5/13/22

Happy Friday the 13th! The fear of “Friday the 13th” has been called “Frigga Triskaidekaphobia” (“Frigga” being the name of the Norse Goddess for whom “Friday” is named in English and “Triskaidekaphobia” meaning fear of the number thirteen). For those who consider the date unlucky, here is a link to fun facts and trivia → [Friday 13th](#).

Congratulations to Mayor Sharon Foerster, Councilmember Cassie Barrientos, and Councilmember Janice Bruno on their election / re-election to office. Special THANKS to Councilmember Stan Gerdes and outgoing Mayor Joanna Morgan for their service. Voter turnout for the City election was 25.1% with 673 votes cast out of 2,686 registered voters. Voter turnout for the SISD election was 15.5% with 1328 votes cast out of 8558 registered voters. Click on the following link for additional information → [Bastrop County Election Results](#). As a reminder, all political signs on private property must be removed within 7-days after the election per Chapter 14 - Zoning, section 3.7.2. Once the campaign dust settles, I would like to hold a workshop to discuss issues, accomplishments, projects, and future plans. I am targeting June 2, 2022.

Here is a list of accomplishments, issues, and planned activities:

- 1) 2022 Bastrop Central Appraisal District (BCAD) Preliminary Estimate of Assessed Property Values** – The City of Smithville received official notice from BCAD communicating the preliminary estimate of property value(s) within the city limits. The total assessed property value (net taxable minus exemptions) for Smithville in 2022 is \$407,517,500. This represents an 24.38% increase (\$79,879,404) over last year’s net taxable value of \$327,638,096. Based on the city’s current tax rate of \$0.54901 per \$100 valuation, this could bring in an additional \$438,538 of revenue to the FY22/23 General Fund - barring any adjustments given to citizens who protest and win their appeals, added exemptions, etc., which typically equates to a 2-3% reduction of the total assessed value. The average home value increased 11.6% from \$185,281 to \$206,835. Final property values (i.e., the certified tax roll) won’t be out until the July/August timeframe. These values are what drive the effective tax rate which is used to calculate the total tax rate.

BCAD Property Valuation & City Tax Rate Comparison - PRELIMINARY								
Year	Assessed Valuation	% Change in Value	Avg Home Value	Avg City Tax Paid	M&O Rate	I&S Rate	Total Tax Rate	% Change
2022	\$407,517,500	24.38%	\$206,835	TBD				
2021	\$327,638,096	12.25%	\$185,281	\$1,017	\$0.4194	\$0.1296	\$0.5490	0.00%
2020	\$291,892,810	6.06%	\$170,086	\$933	\$0.4466	\$0.1024	\$0.5490	-3.52%
2019	\$275,208,274	10.97%	\$162,541	\$925	\$0.4525	\$0.1165	\$0.5690	0.00%
2018	\$247,999,239	4.63%	\$151,444	\$862	\$0.4455	\$0.1235	\$0.5690	5.57%
2017	\$237,025,717	13.85%	\$142,363	\$767	\$0.4166	\$0.1224	\$0.5390	-4.77%
2016	\$208,184,234	6.03%	\$128,688	\$728	\$0.4276	\$0.1384	\$0.5660	2.28%

- 2) City-wide Mosquito Spraying Initiated** – The warmer temperatures and sporadic rain have created the perfect breeding ground for mosquitos. Besides being a nuisance, many citizens are concerned about the threat of [West Nile](#) and [Zika](#) viruses. In response, the city will begin spraying all roads and alley-ways twice a week in the evening hours between 9:00 pm and 3:00 am (every Tuesday and Friday). The city is using “Evoluer 30-30” mosquito repellent which is mixed with an oil surfactant and delivered by a truck- mounted, ultra-low volume mister / sprayer. The manner and method in which the city dispenses the mosquito repellent solution complies with all regulatory requirements governing its use and does not present a significant health hazard to humans when delivered in DILUTE concentrations. However, the mixture can be toxic to fish and bees if sprayed directly in fish ponds or on blooming crops where bees are active. Note: Roads and alleys will be sprayed during the evening hours when bees are not active. Click on the following link to review the [Evoluer 30-30 Safety Data Sheet \(SDS\)](#). In the meantime, citizens can help do their part by keeping tall grass mowed and removing commonly overlooked breeding spots that can hold water that include old tires, clogged gutters, abandoned tubs or buckets. A good mosquito repellent (e.g., OFF, CUTTER, REPEL, etc.) is also advised if going outdoors in the late afternoon / evening. Cloves inserted into lime halves also does a decent job for localized mosquito control. Some people swear by rubbing dryer sheets on their arms. When all else fails --- the palm of your hand is a tried and true, guaranteed organic method of mosquito abatement! Click on the following link for some interesting facts about mosquitos--> <https://blog.mosquito.buzz/20-random-mosquito-facts-you-didnt-know>. Please contact City Hall at (512) 237-3282 if you have any questions.

City Manager Update – 5/13/22 (continued)

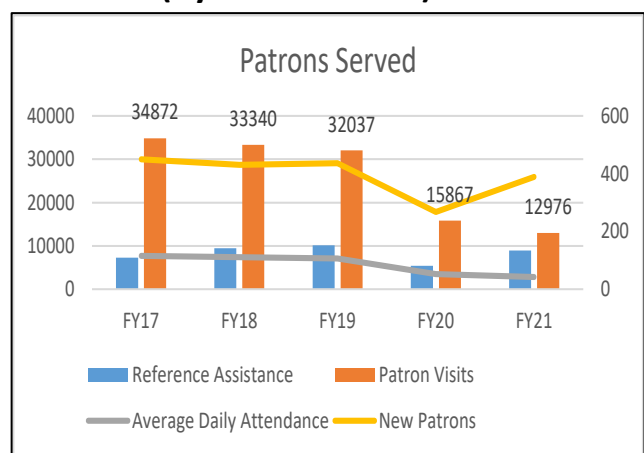
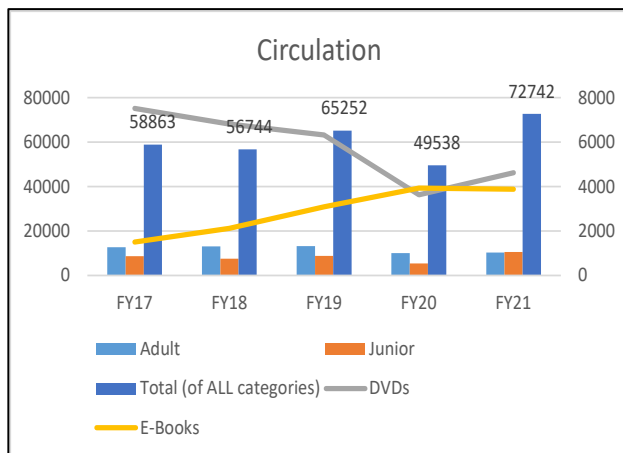
- 3) **City of Smithville Sales Tax Update** - Below are the sales tax allocations for May 2022 vs. May 2021 (retail sales made primarily in March). This data reflects RETAIL sales of goods and services subject to LOCAL sales tax. Our sales tax payment (receipt) for April was \$92,007. This represents an **8.72% INCREASE** in our net payment compared to the same time last year. Smithville's year-to-date sales tax payments total \$372,035. Sales tax dollars are used to make street / road repairs and help pay for community services like FIRE and POLICE. Please remember to SHOP LOCAL - it makes a difference!!!

Bastrop County Tax Allocation - MAY 2022

County/City	Current Rate	Net Payment This Period	Comparable Payment Prior Year	% Change	2022 Payments To Date	2021 Payments	% Change
Bastrop	1.50%	\$995,806	\$967,408	2.93%	\$4,556,599	\$3,879,040	17.46%
Elgin	1.50%	\$348,327	\$278,964	24.86%	\$1,445,628	\$1,162,878	24.31%
Smithville	1.50%	\$92,007	\$84,622	8.72%	\$372,035	\$308,488	20.59%
Bastrop County	0.50%	\$721,781	\$614,894	17.38%	\$3,046,551	\$2,459,756	23.85%

- 4) **Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) Annual Report Submitted** – The Smithville Public Library submitted its annual report for FY 2021 to the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) on April 1, 2022 as required for accreditation. Accredited libraries have greater access to shared library resources (e.g., TexShare databases, interlibrary loan) and qualify for Texas State Library grants. With the successful appeal to TSLAC last year, our library now has a more reasonable service population of 13,235 people, and is expected to have met the minimum standards to maintain accredited status in the TSLAC System (TSLAC will be notifying libraries of their accreditation status soon). In comparison to FY 2020, there is a big increase in circulation (47%) which is especially driven by children's and young adult materials (94% increase over last year). FY 2020, however, gets a COVID asterisk – it is probably more appropriate to compare this past year to FY 2019, which shows only an 11% increase in circulation (20% increase in children's materials). This increase in circulation, though, is concurrent with a 60% drop in patron visits, so books/DVDs are obviously important to this community. It is expected that an increase in patron visits will be evident as the library increases in-person programming. The library is also seeing a huge jump in wi-fi access over prior years (now that the new router counts 24/7 access sessions) indicating that digital access is still a problem for many rural residents. Last year, \$327,357 were spent on direct library operating expenditures, with \$299,113 being from local funds (the remainder was non-local grant funding). The City of Smithville's contribution to that total was \$262,699 (Bastrop County was \$8,500) with the remainder coming from grants, foundations, and individual donations. Again, these figures represent the maintenance of effort (MOE) by local government, which demonstrates local commitment to the impact public libraries have on their communities and is a factor in the determination of accreditation status. And for every dollar spent on the library, the community receives at least \$4 to \$5 value in return. For more information, contact Judy Bergeron at 512-237-3282 (ext. 2424).

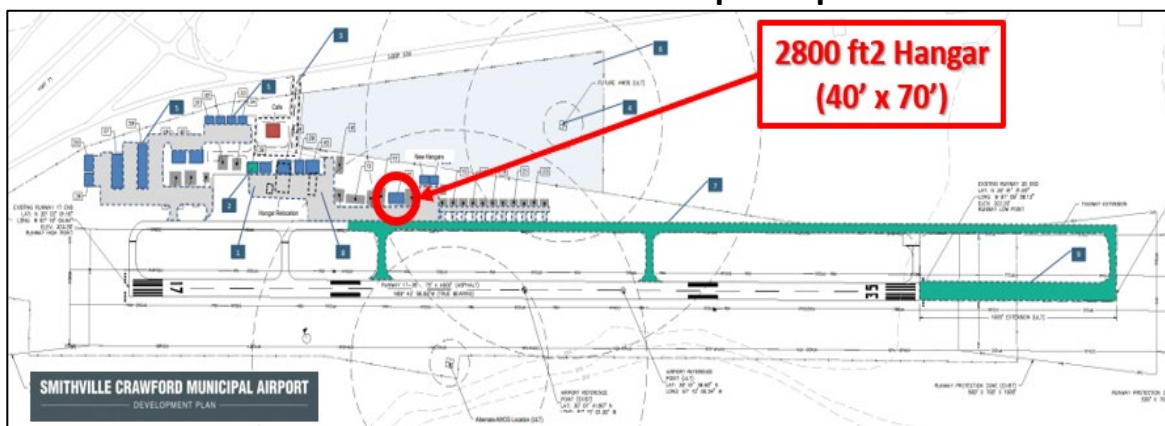
Smithville Public Library Statistics (By the Numbers)



City Manager Update – 5/13/22 (continued)

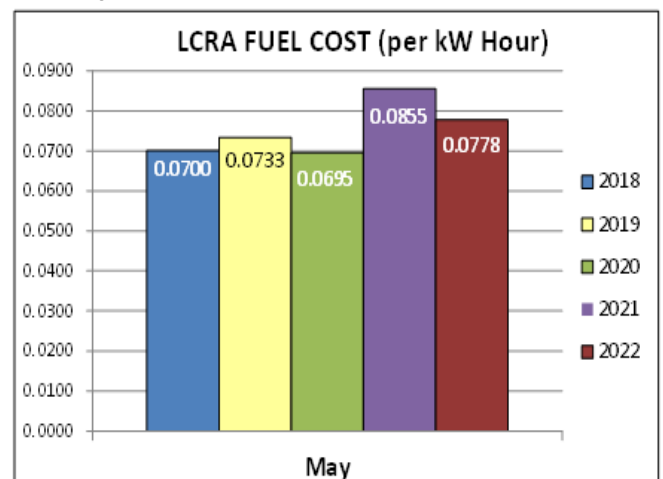
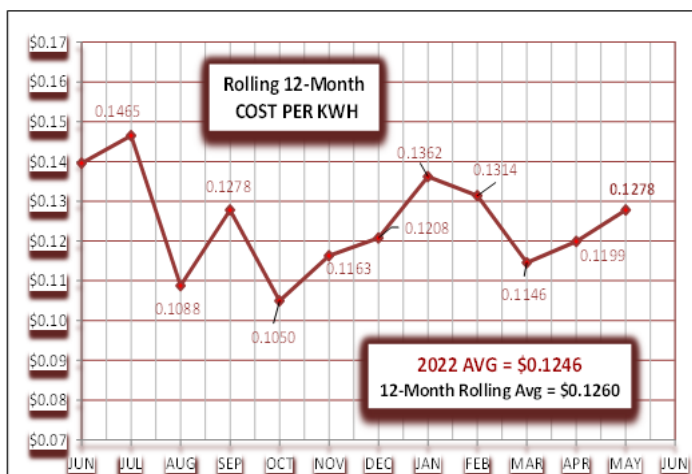
- 5) **City Council to Consider Economic Development Agreement for Hangar Donation** - Sammi and Travis Hill are local aviators that would like to enter into a Texas Local Government Code Chapter 380 Economic Development Agreement to allow the construction and subsequent donation of a 2800 ft² (40' x 70') hangar (valued at \$140,400) to the City of Smithville at the Smithville-Crawford Municipal Airport. The proposed term of the agreement is 25-years. The Hills must purchase and build the hangar within 12-months of entering into the agreement at a location identified in the approved TXDOT Aviation Airport Layout Plan (ALP). The Hills will receive an 18-year "lease credit" at \$650 per month until the initial cost \$140,400 is reimbursed. The Hills will then be allowed to rent the city-owned hangar at \$775 per month for the next 7-years. This will bring \$65,100 revenue to the city beginning in 2040. In return, the City will cover the cost of utility installation, insurance, mowing, and monthly electric service. Both parties will share the cost to bring pavement (hot mix) to/from the hangar. Should you choose to approve this agreement, the city will gain a \$140,000 capital asset and \$65,000 in future revenue. The Hills will be allowed to "purchase" 25-years of dedicated hangar space in a city-owned hangar. In addition, the agreement will further enable the airport expansion per the approved TXDOT Aviation ALP. This will be an agenda item for discussion and action on Monday, May 16, 2022.

Smithville-Crawford Municipal Airport



- 6) **Residential Cost Per Kilowatt Hour (kWh) Calculated** – An analysis of LCRA billing data was conducted to determine residential cost per kilowatt hour (kWh) in May. 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 May is \$0.0778. This represents a **11.26% INCREASE** compared to April's fuel cost of \$0.0699. Adding the City's distribution fee of \$0.0500 and LCRA's \$0.0778 fuel cost, **the cost per kWh for residential service in Smithville during MAY will be \$0.1278**. The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) of Texas provides [energy conservation tips](#) to help reduce consumption which in turn will help citizens save money. Below you will find a "rolling" 12-month residential cost per kWh and a fuel cost comparison chart. On average, the cost per kWh for residential electric service in Smithville is between 12-13 cents.

City of Smithville Residential Cost Per kWh / LCRA F&PCRF – MAY 2022



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

*Residential Distribution Fee = \$0.500/kWh. Non-Resident (i.e., service outside city limit) Distribution Fee = \$0.650/kWh Effective October 1, 2019

City Manager Update – 5/13/22 (continued)

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

The **16th ANNUAL SMITHVILLE FLY-IN** will be held this **Saturday, May 14, 2022** at the Smithville-Crawford Municipal Airport. The event will start at 10 a.m. and the day will be filled with airplanes, pilots, games, and prizes. Food will be available from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information and or updates visit <https://www.facebook.com/Fly84R?fref=ts>.

The **SMITHVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL FUNDRAISER** will be held on **Sunday, May 15, 2022** at Riverbend Park. Lunch will be served at 11 a.m. with the auction at 1 p.m. Lunch includes fried chicken, sausage and all the sides for \$10. Raffle tickets are \$2 each or 6 for \$10. The grand prize is an \$2000 Visa Gift Card. If you would like to donate or purchase raffle tickets, click on the following link <https://smithvillevfd.org/> . Hope to see you there!

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK is **May 15-21, 2022**. If you get the opportunity, please THANK our Police Officers and Dispatchers for all they do to keep everyone safe. Peace Officers Memorial Day and Police Week is an observance in the United States that pays tribute to the local, state, and Federal Peace Officers who have died in the line of duty.

The next **CITY COUNCIL** meeting will be held on **Monday, May 16, 2022** at 6:00 pm (City Hall).

EARLY VOTING for the **2022 PRIMARY RUNOFF ELECTIONS** will begin **May 16, 2022** and continues through **May 20, 2022** at the Smithville Recreation Center (106 Royston). Election Day is Tuesday, May 24, 2022. For more information, go to [Bastrop County Votes](#).

The **BEST MONTHLY BREAKFAST** (sponsored by Bastrop EDC) will be held at Film Alley (1600 Chestnut St, Bastrop) from 8:00-9:00 am on **Friday, May 20, 2022**.

The next **HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE (HHW) COLLECTION EVENT** will be held on **Saturday, May 21, 2022** from 9:00 am to Noon at 109 Taylor Street in Smithville. Must have voucher to participate. Click on the following link for more information → https://www.co.bastrop.tx.us/page/ds.household_waste

The next monthly **CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MIXER** will be held on **Thursday, May 26, 2022** (from 5-7:00 pm) at the Ralph-Land Group in Smithville (300 Short Street).

Just a reminder that **CITY HALL** will be CLOSED **Monday, May 30, 2022** in observance of **MEMORIAL DAY**. Office hours will be 8-5 Tuesday through Friday (May 31st to June 3rd).

Please join the **SMITHVILLE VFW POST 1309** on **Monday, May 30, 2022** at @11:00 am to honor those servicemen who have sacrificed and paid the ultimate price for our FREEDOM. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be served and the public is welcome to attend. **Mayor Sharon Foerster** will be the guest speaker. For more information, click → [George M Jones VFW Post 1309](#)

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information. Have a great weekend.



PHOTOS (5/13/22):

Sealcoat Specialists Restoring the Ramp and Taxiway @ 84R



Hope Floats / Home of the TIGERS Sign Damaged in Auto Accident (No Serious Injuries)



Brookshire Grand Re-opening



Ann Powell Express



City Hall Staff



Water Line Extension on McSweeney

