



ARANSAS PASS CITY NEWS

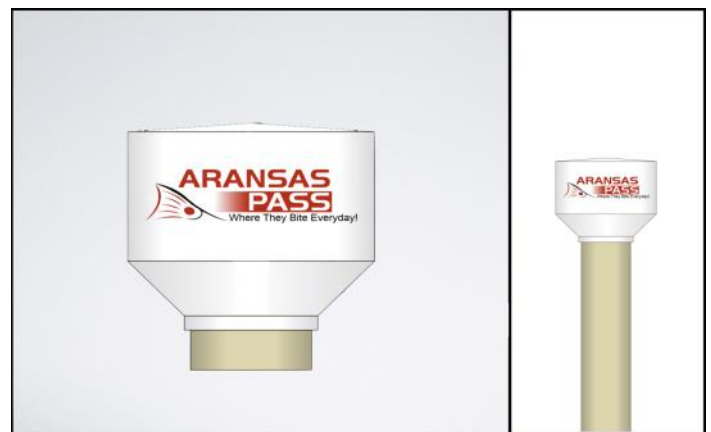
Issue 24

October 2019

The “Where They Bite Everyday” Resurrection

No one can say for certain when it began, but for decades the City of Aransas Pass’ motto was “Where They Bite Everyday”. Of course, this is in reference to the great fishing destination for which Aransas Pass is known. Shown below on the left is a picture of a 1950’s Aransas Pass police car and officer proudly displaying the city motto. Thanks to a suggestion by City Councilman Billy Ellis, who has a life-long history in the community, the long-forgotten motto is being resurrected and placed on the new elevated water tower now under construction (see the picture on the right below). The Tower should be substantially completed and usable by January 2020 and totally built by March 2020.

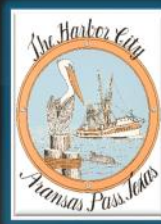
The picture to the right was taken on September 30th at the new water tower site. Work on the tower is progressing well. The Aransas Pass elevated water tank was the only such structure topped by Hurricane Harvey. It is being rebuilt with Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) funds (90%) with the City’s match (10%) being paid by the Rebuild Texas Fund.



Join Us for A Spooktacular Event City of Aransas Pass

Presents

4th Annual



October 31, 2019

6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Conn Brown Harbor



Costume Contest - Hay Rides & Much More

The 4th Annual Trunk or Treat Is Set for October 31st

The number of attendees for the annual Trunk or Treat keeps growing. Last year it was estimated to be a little over one-thousand. This year should be even larger. Participants come from throughout this region. Donations pay for the cost of the event. The popular event provides a safe way for children to experience Halloween. The October 31st Trunk or Treat starts at 6:30 pm at Conn Brown Harbor. In addition to tons of candy, there will be hay rides and much more. Trunk or Treat is a City sponsored event, but it is one in which the whole community is involved.

Finishing Work on Civic Center Underway Soon

The final three items necessary for the completion of hurricane repair work at the Civic Center soon will be underway. These are: (1) the sound system; (2) Electrical work; and (3) the HVAC system. The first two should be covered by FEMA and the third item, the HVAC, will be paid for with a grant from The Rebuild Texas Fund.



During Tropical Storm Gabrielle in the Southern Gulf of Mexico, shrimp boats from miles around took refuge in Conn Brown Harbor. (see above pic)

The FY20 City Operating Budget is Complete

The FY20 budget document, the largest in the City's history, is now complete. The budget is the work of the City Council, Finance Department and all Department heads. A copy of the annual operating budget is available on the City's website.

Contact Us

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Further Confirmation of Aransas Pass' Improved Finances

The Texas Water Development Board is confirming the City's improved financial condition. During the latter part of Summer the City of Aransas Pass received word from Standard and Poors (S&P) that following the financial challenges of Hurricane Harvey, our City was now considered financially stable. Immediately after Harvey, S&P put Aransas Pass on a watch list because of Harvey related expenses and because of a long history of weak budgets. That position by S&P was confirmed by a recent visit from financial examiners with the Texas Water Development Board. Pictured above from left to right are James Wright and Ariel Oubda of the Texas Water Development Board, Gary Edwards, City Manager, Sandra Garcia, City Finance Director and Carleton Wilkes of the Board. In a follow-up note to the City, Mr. Wilkes wrote that he was "very impressed with the current state of affairs for your City and its future. All of this just two years after Harvey."



2019 CITIZEN SURVEY IS COMPLETE

The 2nd Annual Aransas Pass Customer Service Survey results are in. Again this year, the survey provides insight into your opinion of city Services. The survey went out to virtually every household in Aransas Pass and also a digital version was available on the City website. Just under 300 respondents answered 94% of the questions and only 6% were left blank.

45% of those responding said they rated the overall services provided by the City as good to excellent. 35% said the services are fair. These numbers are almost identical to last year's survey. 16% said city services are poor. It is worth noting that 86% of those responding said they were treated courteously at the last city contact. 6% said they were not treated courteously.

One of the more revealing questions in the survey asked if citizens have seen improvements in Aransas Pass following Hurricane Harvey. 80% said yes and 17% said no. Also, 69% agree with the City's recent annexation efforts to protect the area near the city limits and the coastline. 27% said they do not agree with the efforts.

It is interesting to look at how people responded to the question of how they would rate the overall appearance of the City and how these questions compare to last year. This year, fewer (32%) said the City's appearance is poor; whereas last year that number was 36%. This year 43% classified the City's appearance as fair and last year that number was 34%. On the other hand, only 20% said the City's appearance was good to excellent while last year that number was 26%. Following a similar theme, 85% of those responding said code enforcement efforts are important to very important to the City. Of that number 56% said they are very important. Last year that question also was asked and the number for important to very important was 88%. In other words, almost identical to this year.

Again this year, Police (65% good to excellent) and Fire (52% good to excellent) rank high as City services as does regular trash pick-up. The utility bill payment process also had high positives for the second year. The appearance of the Aransas Pass downtown is improving somewhat. Last year 36% said downtown was good to excellent. This year it was 40%.

The City's Civic Center continues to rank high with citizens. 59% said it is good to excellent. This compares to last year's 57%. This year 3% rank the Civic Center services as poor. Meanwhile, 58% believe the library is good to excellent and 2% say the library service is poor.

Citizens also told us what improvements are needed. Streets rank high as an area in need of significant improvement here in Aransas Pass. This year's approval rating of streets ranked lower than last year's. In other words, many of you believe streets are getting worse. However, those numbers should improve by next year's survey after a large amount of street related infrastructure work is completed. Storm water drainage is another area in which you believe improvements are necessary. The City agrees this is a major problem; so a major water drainage study is underway throughout Aransas Pass.