



ARANSAS PASS CITY NEWS

Issue 59

September 2022



The Epic Harvey Recovery Is Virtually Complete

A recent national news story ranked Harvey as the 12th most destructive hurricane in the nation's history. On August 25, 2017, 5 years ago, Aransas Pass was in the direct path of this category 4 storm. A symbol of the storm's strength was our water tower. Aransas Pass was the only City to lose its elevated water storage tank. It came crashing to the ground with its nearly full contents rushing through an adjoining building. See the photo to the left. The photo on the right is of the state-of-the-art replacement tower paid for by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). So far, FEMA has paid for \$16,050,440 worth of recovery repairs and replacements throughout the City. Another \$10 mil Community Development Block Grant dollars were applied for and received to help with the disaster. Those funds went to infrastructure. Immediately after the storm, Aransas Pass looked as though it had been hit by a blitzkrieg bombing. The streets were filled with debris. Piles of storm rubbish were stored at the Shrimporee grounds. Roads and infrastructure were damaged or destroyed. But within minutes after the storm, the recovery began. 459,000 cubic yards of debris were removed at a cost of \$8.3 million. Apartment complexes now are rebuilt. There is a new apartment complex on Wheeler. We have a regional movie theater complex. A Harbor Freight. A new bank. A new bowling alley. A new Starbucks. The number of utility customers has increased to more than pre-Harvey numbers. There will be a new Motel 6. There is a rebuilt Candlewood Suite Hotel. Other motels that had to close and make repairs due to Harvey now are open. Parts of the Conn Brown Harbor bulkhead are rebuilt. Because of Harvey, we were able to make Conn Brown Harbor even more of a showplace with new roads, a bike/walking trail and we were able to repave the parking lot and repair a pier. There now are street lights throughout Conn Brown Harbor. AP is slated to receive just under 500 new homes—a much needed addition. Since Harvey, the City has taken our budget from one with a general fund balance of less than 10% to one that is 40%. All of these are just a few of the recovery improvements. Citizens, the City Council, and a very talented staff are responsible for these epic accomplishments that not only repaired a community but made it stronger.



Your Community Involvement Is Needed

This is your opportunity to get involved! Residents interested in volunteering to serve on a City board, commission or committee are encouraged to apply for an appointment. The City currently has vacancies on the Municipal Development District Board, Zoning Board of Adjustment, Planning and Zoning Commission and the Environmentally Sensitive Area Board. Applications are available in the City Secretary's Office, 600 W. Cleveland, or on the City's website at www.aptx.gov. If you have questions contact the City Secretary's office at 361-758-5301, Ext. 1103.

Braselton Homes Moving Forward Here in AP

Just under 500 homes are slated to be built in North Aransas Pass near the new overpass. The development currently is in the process of sending plans and other written materials to the Planning Department for review. The City Council already has authorized this project to move forward. It will be done in phases. When completed, this housing project should take the City of Aransas Pass over the 10,000 population mark. Retail follows rooftops, so once construction starts, we also should see an increase in retail—especially in the area of Highway 35.



CONTACT US

Aransas Pass City News is published by the City of Aransas Pass, Tx. Call 361-758-5301 if you wish to subscribe or unsubscribe.

RECALL ELECTION PETITIIONS REQUESTED

A request has been made to the City Secretary for recall petitions for three councilmembers. A fourth would have been included except she was re-elected less than 6 months ago, so is not recall eligible. 500 qualified city resident signatures for each petition (Councilmember) are needed in order to put the three names on the election ballot. Since the deadline for getting names on the November ballot was missed, the earliest the petitioners can get the three names on the ballot is May. Ironically, that is when those three councilmembers are up for re-election anyway. If the 500 qualified signatures are obtained for the May election, the City will need to ask the State how to address this unique situation. The purpose for the recall is unhappiness by some with Fire Department safety inspections.



“Thank Y’all For Saving Our Home”

On the weekend of August 20th and 21st the Aransas Pass Fire Department, along with assistance from nearby departments, fought a mammoth grass fire. It was close to the San Patricio/ Aransas County line and near Highway 35. The billowing smoke could be seen for many miles.

One resident who lives in the area, sent the City a note with pictures (see above pic) the day after the fire. She wrote: “There are no words to express our gratitude for the amazing job y’all did to save our home. I just knew when I made that initial call to 911, just before 3 PM, we were not going to have a home to return to.”

Nearly 200 acres of grass and small trees were destroyed.



TASTE OF ARANSAS PASS

Don't miss this sweet event!

SEPTEMBER 15, 2022

SAMPLE DISHES FROM THE BEST
EATERIES IN ARANSAS PASS AND
SURROUNDING AREAS.

CALL (361) 758-2750 TO PARTICIPATE
OR TO PURCHASE AN EVENT TICKET.

ARANSAS PASS CIVIC CENTER

ALL CUISINE WELCOME
THEME: CANDY LAND

WWW.ARANSASPASS.ORG

SEPTEMBER SENIOR CALENDAR

FALL ARTS & CRAFTS

Holiday
September 5
No Meeting

September 19
Craft Day
1-2pm



FOR MORE
INFORMATION CALL:
361-758-0009

ARANSAS PASS



STATE OF THE CITY & DISTRICT

Soaring to New Heights

SEPTEMBER 8TH

11:45 AM-1:00 PM | Doors open at 11:15 AM
Aransas Pass Civic Center | Tables Start at \$350

