

City of Hondo
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City Dispatch/After Hours Line
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City Website
www.hondo-tx.org

May 2018

Mayor's Minute

This community suffered a great loss two weeks ago with the passing of a Hondo icon, Bill Berger, whose family's Hondo Anvil – Herald has brought local news and his own sage and wise comments and advise to us for generations. His passing brings us great sorrow and on behalf of our citizenry, I sent our condolences to the Berger family.

Once again, the City of Hondo is pleased to provide advantageous summer programs, not only for our children but also for you adults.

First, again this summer our very busy recreational department will be offering these programs:

1) Summer Camp for kids ages 6-12 years where they can come and spend a substantial amount of their summer, during the hours of 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, learning, having fun and finding out how to be healthy. Some of the activities planned are health and nutrition programs, trips to the Nature Trail Park, airport, to our library, and they will enjoy movies, games, arts, crafts and swimming. It is anticipated that up to 150 kids will join us this summer. Space is limited to 150 kids, camp is from June 4th to July 26th and registration has already started, first come, first serve. For our working parents this is a great and beneficial program.



2) Swim lessons – City staff will be teaching citizens ages 4 and up how to be safe in, out and around water. The curriculum comes from the American Red Cross Learn to Swim Program. Four, two week sessions will be held June 5-15, June 19-29, July 10-20, July 31-August 10. Each session costs \$40 per swimmer and gets you eight 30 minute classes. Space is also limited for this program and registration will start in May.



3) For our adults, you can keep cool while exercising this summer with water fitness classes. There will be a Lap Swim available and there will also be an instructor to lead fitness classes to be held Tuesday through Friday in the mornings and afternoons. Fitness enthusiasts of all levels can participate in any of our classes, including High Cardio and Cuts, B.L.A.S.T. and Aqua Zumba. These classes start in May and can be paid for daily or passes are available for the summer.

A free Kick-off Summer Party for all ages to kick off the summer will be held June 8th at 7:00 PM with fun and games for both kids and adults. We urge our citizens to take advantage of these city sponsored activities. Contact the Rick Taylor Recreation Center at 830-426-2475 for any questions.

Continued on back...

Upcoming Events

City Council Meetings

May 9th at 6:00pm (Special Meeting)

May 14th at 6:00pm

Boards and Commissions

Planning & Zoning

May 21st at 6:00pm

Library Advisory Board

May 22nd at 5:30pm

Board of Adjustment Meeting

May 22nd at 6:00pm

Parks & Rec. Advisory Board

May 23rd at 6:00pm

Utility Dates for May

Last Day to pay without penalty

Tues. May 15th

Last day to pay with penalty before disconnection or request an extension

Tues. May 29th

Disconnection day-Wed. May 30th



Coffee with Cops

Thursday, May 24th

Hondo Public Library

Topic: Drugs and Gangs

As promised in earlier newsletters, I want to continue to keep you informed about the progress of our water and system improvements and other capital projects.

First, on 14th Street, our construction plans are to finish repairs of sidewalks over the next couple of weeks. On Avenue J between 16th and 20th Streets the contractor will finish repairing the streets after installing new water lines. On Avenue D between 15th and 16th streets, the contractor has begun installing water lines and this work will continue over the next several weeks. On the new Elevated Storage Tank at Avenue Y and Harper, the contractor has begun painting which should be completed by May 7th and hopefully it will be on line around June 1st. On the downtown water facility, new piping will be installed during June 11-30. The bids to rehabilitate the other water tanks were opened on April 19th; six bids were received and the bids are being evaluated.

For the new Police Station and Public Works Facility buildings, the construction of the modular buildings, Satellite Shelter, is finalizing the construction drawings. Once the construction drawings are finalized, the city will begin extending utilities at the

sites. Site work is anticipated to begin in late July and the delivery of the buildings are scheduled for September, 2018.

If you have not had the opportunity to visit the city's Nature Trail Park, you really need to do so. The project began in 2001, many changes have been made, all improvements to the park. Kudos once again to the Hondo Garden Club and our own Parks Department for enhancing our community with this wonderful, unique park.

Last but not least, if you haven't already early voted, please exercise your right to vote in the city council election on May 5th at the County Elections office. You should always have a say-so in your city council representation.

~Mayor James W. Danner, Sr.



Hondo Public Library's
2018 summer reading
program theme is:
"Libraries Rock!"

Children ages 0- HS Senior's
may sign up.

FREE PROGRAM!

Stop by the library at 2003 Ave K.
to reserve your spot and see
schedule of *fun events* planned for
this summer.

Program kicks off June 12th!
Don't wait to reserve your spot.

For more information contact the
HPL staff at 830-426-5353



From the Desk of the City Manager

As we get ready for the Texas summer to heat things up, we want to make sure and help prepare you for the typical increase we see in utility bills. This month in our frequently asked questions series, we will cover utility bill extensions. The Hondo City Council adopted by ordinance that you are allowed to request up to *two extensions within a calendar year* for extreme extenuating circumstances. There are still some guidelines about those extension requests that each customer should follow. Here are some of the questions we are often asked:

- 1) *What qualifies as an extreme extenuating circumstance?* If a person can document some type of job loss, hospitalization, death in the family, or emergency, the City will work with them through the granting of an extension as long as they have not used more than the two allotted for the calendar year and the circumstance happened within the month that your bill was due. Things like school supply shopping, birthday parties, making your car payment do not meet extreme circumstances.
- 2) *Can I apply for an extension on cut-off day?* No, you must apply for an extension prior to cut-off for non-payment day.
- 3) *Do I have to pay anything at the time of my extension?* Yes, you must still pay 20 percent of your bill to receive the extension.
- 4) *What happens if I don't pay the rest of the bill within the time allowed?* You will be disconnected for non-payment and subject to reconnect fees, pay deposits not on file and all must be paid in full before utilities are restored.
- 5) *Where do I go or who do I talk to for an extension request?* You speak to the utility billing staff. Any member of that division is able to assist you with your request.

As always, if you have any questions about this or any other City services, please feel free to contact us at City Hall with your questions. We look forward to providing you with great customer service! ~Kim Davis