



City of
BUNKER HILL VILLAGE
NEWSLETTER

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October 2020

A Note from Mayor Lord

Dear Residents:

We hope this newsletter finds you and your family staying well and safe. We have been fortunate that everyone is being careful and social distancing where appropriate within Bunker Hill Village. As a result, the Harris County website shows that we have had less than 70 cases, less than 10 active cases, and no reported deaths within our City. However, that does not mean that the COVID-19 pandemic has not affected us.

The pandemic has touched everyone in different ways, especially emotionally. Thank you to Chief Ray Schultz and Police Commissioner/Mayor Pro-Tem Jay Smyre for recently sharing some excellent information for resources available to those struggling emotionally. I felt it would be helpful to share this information again on the back page of this newsletter. Please feel free to pass along.

In addition to the emotional stress, the impact of the virus may also have resulted in financial stress. Please know the City Council Members and I have been discussing this reality over the past few months. As a result, I am pleased to share that the City Council recently voted to lower the City's tax rate in addition to the already lower overall property value assessment from HCAD. Accordingly, everyone should see a reduction in the tax bill from the City. Further, we were able to keep the water and wastewater rates flat for 2021. A slight monthly increase of \$1 in the rate for trash and recycling was required due to an increase in the rate according to the City's contract with Texas Pride. I ask that you please see the back of this newsletter for information regarding tips to improve the recycling program.

We hope to see those who are comfortable joining us for our annual Twinkle Light Parade, which will be a safe, socially-distanced, and fun event held on Thursday, Dec. 17th! We will be careful to assure the safety of our volunteers and participants.

Thank you,
Mayor Robert Lord

Dear Residents,

What a year! It is hard to believe that the holidays are quickly approaching! We wanted to make sure you save the date for the **4th Annual (COVID Friendly) Twinkle Light Parade** set for **Thursday, December 17 beginning at 6:00 p.m.** We are working on the details so be sure you check your v-line or the website for the parade route as the event approaches. We are also welcoming other **"lighted floats, bikes, or cars"** to join us. Please contact me to join in the fun. You can call City Hall at 713-467-9762 or email me at kglynn@bunkerhilltx.gov so we can finalize all plans. To keep everyone safe, we will not be having the festivities and gathering at the end of the parade

I am also providing our holiday office hours below so you can plan accordingly (especially for any permitting needs including final inspections).

There is more information on the back of this newsletter. Happy holidays and end of the year planning!! We are here if you need us!

Karen Glynn, City Administrator

City Hall Holiday Hours:

Thanksgiving

City Hall will close at Noon on Wednesday, November 25
Regular hours resume on Monday, November 30

Christmas/New Years

City Hall will be open Monday, December 21
until Noon on Wednesday, December 23
and

Monday, December 28 until Wednesday, December 30
Regular hours resume on Monday, January 4, 2021

Save the Date: ★
Twinkle Light Parade
★ Thursday, December 17th ★



End of the year Donation Opportunities *To benefit your community*

Many residents have participated in the various donation programs that serve Bunker Hill Village and have shared that it would be great to put in our newsletter as a reminder:

Dedicate a Tree or a Bench to promote our beautiful City – The City has established a “Dedication Program” for the City to promote our beautiful city while remembering events or those dear to us. The cost to dedicate a tree is \$700 and a bench is \$ 1,200. A dedication/memorial plaque is placed by the tree or bench. This fee may increase in 2021.

Memorial Villages First Responder Relief Fund – *In recognition of the sacrifices that our first responders make on behalf of our Cities.* The fund was established and used as a result of Hurricane Harvey. The fund remains in place to provide financial assistance to our first responders who find themselves the victims of and face emergency hardships as a result of natural disasters or emergencies. The fund is a designated 501(c) 3.

Memorial Villages Police Officers Foundation – The MVPD Police Foundation is a 501(c)3 that consists of an Elected Board that include MVPD sworn and civilian personnel along with Village Residents. The MVPD Foundation is a benevolent group created to assist the department and personnel by providing personal assistance to staff and their families and supports the department by providing funding for social events, specialized equipment and training not covered by the cities.

Thank You for Recycling

*Per Texas Pride, the City of Bunker Hill provides more recycling volume per house than most areas. Great job! All of the recycling collected goes to the recycling facility that Texas Pride utilizes. However, about 20% of what is collected is considered contaminated and sent to the landfill. **The number one culprit on contamination is plastic bags**; specifically, bagging the recycling in plastic bags. Recycling is not sorted when a plastic bag is used, it is simply pulled out and sent to the landfill due to efficiency and safety reasons. Please help lessen the contamination by putting recycling directly in the large blue containers – **there is no need to bag**. Thank you!*

Resources for Emotional Support

As Mayor Lord noted, we have all felt the stress of recent events (e.g., pandemic, election, finances, etc.). Studies show how the holidays can provide even more additional stress. We wanted to share some work provided by one of our Police Commissioners. He spent some time researching and identified professional mental healthcare services that are available for residents of Harris County and the Villages. The following non-exhaustive list is offered:

- **"Harris County"** - Offers local mental health care services that are available 24/7. Services can be accessed by dialing 211.
- **"Crisis Intervention"** - Offers free confidential consultation (anonymous) crisis and suicide prevention 24 hours a day. Call 832-416-1177.
- **"Chapelwood United Methodist Church"** - Has a program called "*Stephen Ministries*". They have 40 trained and certified members. *Stephen Ministries* are lay congregation members trained to provide one-to-one care to those experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or relocation. They are local community members. Contact Pamela Moore, at pmoore@chapelwood.org or call 713-354-4480.
- **"Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church"** - Offers professional counseling to members and the community. Individuals facing issues that may seem insurmountable like anger, anxiety, loneliness, guilt, low self-esteem. They focus on teaching coping strategies. Call 713-490-0931.
- **"National Suicide Prevention Lifeline"** – Call 800-273-8255, 24/7. They offer an Intensive Outpatient Treatment and Services.

These five resources, in our area, provide tremendous support for anyone in crisis. Additionally, more information about “Emotional Wellbeing During the COVID-19 Outbreak” may be found using the follow link:

<https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/current-events/supporting-your-emotional-well-being-during-the-covid-19-outbreak/>

As Chief Ray Schultz shared, we have a great team of first responders, and we assist our employees with their mental healthcare as we realize that no one is immune. Mental healthcare is nothing to be afraid of and should not be kept in the shadows. Talk with your family about mental health and the challenges of today. Remember that help is only a phone call away whether it is one of the phone numbers above or call us at 713-365-3700, we do care. Let’s get through this year, a vaccine is around the corner, the election season will pass, and the economy will rebound. Our parents and grandparents lived through the Great Depression and World War II and taught us how to get through tough times. This is our generation’s international crisis that we will defeat and come out as they did: better, stronger and even more resilient.