

City Manager Update – 3/11/22

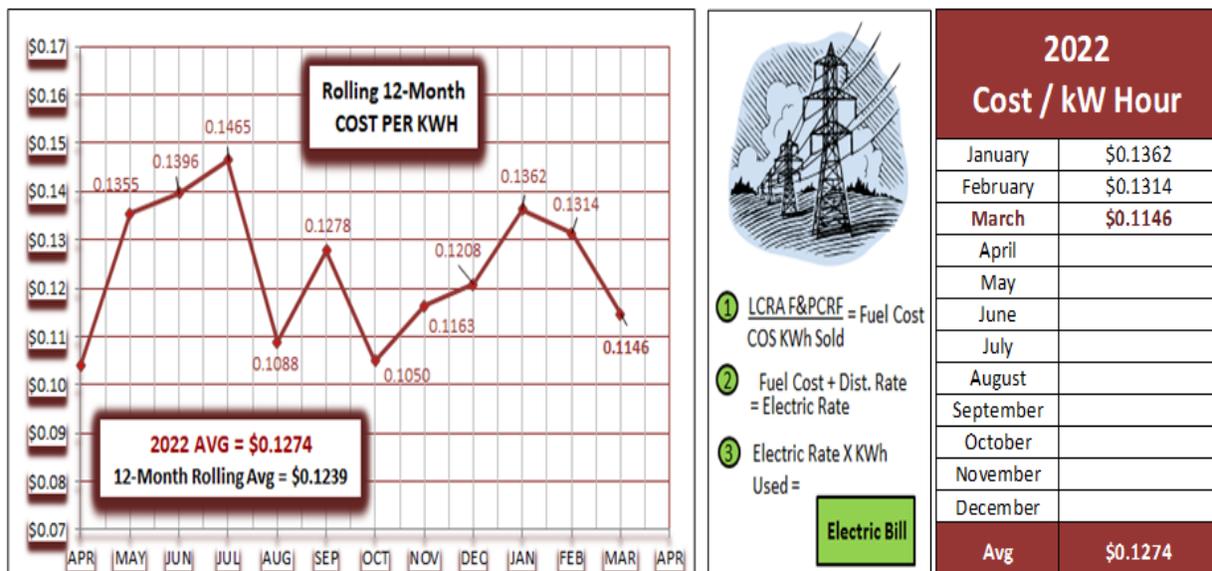
Daylight Savings time will begin on **Sunday, March 13, 2022**. Be sure to move your clocks ahead one (1) hour. “Spring Forward – Fall Back”. It’s also a good time to check/change out the batteries in your smoke detectors.

Congratulations are in order for all those who participated in the “**IT'S TIME TEXAS Community Challenge**”. Smithville came in **1st PLACE** in the “extra small” community category (population between 1-5000) dominating Stockdale and Liberty Hill logging 726,950 points with over 100 community participants. This is the 5th year in a row that Smithville has won the competition! H-E-B sponsored the free, state-wide competition in which Texas communities compete to see which communities can demonstrate the greatest commitment to healthy living. The winning community in each size category will receive a trophy, school district banner, and Governor's certificate. Unfortunately, the \$1,800 community grant that normally would go to the winners in each category, is not being offered this year. Elgin and Bastrop placed 23rd and 25th in the “small” community category (population between 5,000-40,000) earning 36,150 and 30,350 points respectively. Congratulations! Click on the link for results → <https://ittcommunitychallenge.com/>.

Below you will find a list of accomplishments, issues, and planned activities since my last update:

- 1) 2022 LCRA “Steps Forward Day” Project(s) Approved** – The City received notification that our 2022 “Steps Forward Day” project application(s) were approved. Volunteers from LCRA will gather on **Friday, April 1, 2022** to work on community projects throughout LCRA’s service territory. Examples of potential projects include cleaning parks, painting pavilions, planting trees or doing carpentry work. Last year, LCRA volunteers painted the Smithville Community Gardens building (a city-owned facility) located on SE 2nd Street. This year, LCRA volunteers will help the Smithville Police Department install new landscape timbers, trim bushes, and repaint the parking stops and curbs around the building. A second project was also approved to paint the restrooms (exterior) at Riverbend Park. LCRA volunteers and City workers will be meeting at the facilities at 8:30 am for a safety briefing with painting taking place between 9:00 am and noon. Lunch will be provided to all who volunteer. The City is fortunate to have LCRA as a community partner. Programs like Steps Forward and the Community Development Partnership Program (CDPP) have definitely made a positive impact in our community.
- 2) Residential Cost Per Kilowatt Hour (kWh) Calculated** – An analysis of LCRA billing data was conducted to determine residential cost per kilowatt hour (kWh) in March. 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 March is \$0.0646. This represents an **26.18% DECREASE** compared to February’s fuel cost of \$0.0814. Adding the City’s distribution fee of \$0.0500 and LCRA’s \$0.0814 fuel cost, **the cost per kWh for residential service in Smithville during MARCH will be \$0.1146**. Below you will find a “rolling” 12-month residential cost per kWh chart. On average, the cost per kWh for electric service in Smithville is between 12-13 cents with the average household using 1,200 kW per month (\$156).

City of Smithville Residential Cost Per kWh / LCRA F&PCRF - MARCH 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 – 3/11/22 (continued)

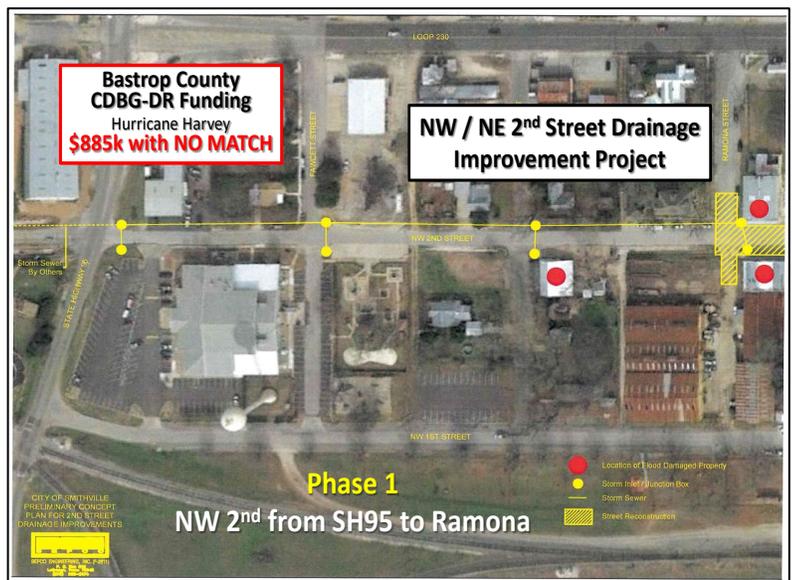
- 3) **2022 City Council, Mayor, and School Board Elections** – Candidate filing for the 2022 City of Smithville / SISD General Election is complete. A list of candidates and the position for which they are running is provided below. Election Day is Saturday, May 7, 2022. Early voting begins April 25, 2022 and ends May 3, 2022. Voting will be at the Smithville Recreation Center (106 Royston). See schedule below and/or click on the following link for additional information (e.g., sample ballot, polling locations, etc.) → <https://www.bastropvotes.org/election-information-2/upcoming-elections/> . The Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce will be sponsoring a candidate forum on Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at the Smithville Rec Center (6:00 pm). Good luck to all the candidates.

Candidates For 2022 General Election City of Smithville / Smithville Independent School District (SISD)

	Position	Candidate	Term Expires	Election Type	Candidate Status
City of Smithville	Mayor	Sharon Foerster - Councilmember - Place 1	May 2023	General	Challenger
		Tom Etheredge - Councilmember - Place 2	May 2023		Challenger
	Councilmember - Place 4	Cassie Barrientos	May 2022	General	Challenger
		Dane Garrison			Challenger
	Councilmember - Place 5	Janice Bruno	May 2022	General	Unopposed
Smithville ISD	Trustee - Place 5	Candice Parsons	May 2022	General	Unopposed
	Trustee - Place 6	Maria Margarita Igoe	May 2022	General	Challenger
		Joshua Magden			Challenger
	Trustee - Place 7	Michael Hancock	May 2022	General	Challenger
		Casey Hanchey			Challenger

NOTE: Mayor Joanna Morgan, Place 4 Councilmember Stan Gerdes, Place 6 Trustee Mike Davis, Jr., and Place 7 Trustee Howard Burns, Jr. are not seeking re-election.

- 4) **NW 2nd Street Drainage Project (GLO CDBG-DR) Update** – The City Council unanimously approved the selection of **WJC Constructors, LLC** as the General Contractor for the NW 2nd Street drainage improvement project during a special-called meeting on Wednesday, February 23, 2022. The \$885k project is being funded by a General Land Office (GLO) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for Disaster Resiliency that was awarded to Bastrop County after Hurricane Harvey. The drainage improvements will begin at SH95 and extend east on NW 2nd to Ramona Street. There is no match requirement for this project. The estimated construction start date is May 1, 2022 with completion scheduled on or before December 31, 2022. Phase 2 of this drainage improvement project is being funded by a \$13M CDBG Mitigation (MIT) grant. The scope of work includes upgrading the existing storm sewer system along NW / NE 2nd from Ramona to Gresham Street. The scope of work also includes re-constructing the existing streets with curb and gutter inlets to ensure proper drainage to the upgraded system. These improvements will help mitigate the risk of repetitive stormwater flooding of existing businesses, residences, and streets in the downtown area. The estimated completion for Phase 2 is June 2024.



NW 2nd Drainage Improvement Project

City Manager Update – 3/11/22 (continued)

- 5) **City of Smithville Sales Tax Update** - Below are the sales tax allocations for March 2022 vs. February 2021 (retail sales made primarily in January). This data reflects RETAIL sales of goods and services subject to LOCAL sales tax. Our sales tax payment (receipt) for March was \$68,204. This represents a 30.63% INCREASE (\$15,994) in our net payment compared to the same time last year. Smithville is currently leading Bastrop County as the municipality with the greatest Year-To-Date percent (%) increase. As a reminder, sales tax dollars are used to make street / road repairs and help pay for community services like FIRE and POLICE. Remember...SHOP LOCAL - it makes a difference!!!

Bastrop County Sales Tax Allocation - March 2022

County/City	Current Rate	Net Payment This Period	Comparable Payment Prior Year	% Change	2022 Payments To Date	2021 Payments	% Change
Bastrop	1.50%	\$791,530	\$690,871	14.56%	\$2,786,380	\$2,310,089	20.61%
Elgin	1.50%	\$251,603	\$211,327	19.05%	\$858,846	\$699,781	22.73%
Smithville	1.50%	\$68,204	\$52,210	30.63%	\$224,454	\$179,428	25.09%
Bastrop County	0.50%	\$504,685	\$434,903	16.04%	\$1,819,736	\$1,456,816	24.91%

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

Monday, March 12, 2022 – Smithville Rec Center SPRING BREAK 5k COLOR RUN. Check-in begins at 9:00 am with 10:00 am START TIME. Register online at

Sunday, March 13, 2022 - Daylight Savings time begins. Set clocks ahead one (1) hour. “Spring Forward – Fall Back”.

Monday, March 14, 2022 - CITY COUNCIL meeting will be held at 6:00 pm (City Hall – 317 Main).

Monday, March 14, 2022 – CHAMBER RIBBON CUTTING at 2:30 pm for the GRAND OPENING of the new Smithville Workforce Training Center Medical Classroom Building located at 403 Olive Street. Additional information available at: www.smithvilleworkforcetrainingcenter.com

Thursday, March 17, 2022 - ST. PATRICK’S DAY CHAMBER MIXER - Sponsored by the Smithville Noon Lion’s Club & Pocket’s Grille, at Pocket’s Grill, 205 Fawcett St. – 5:00 to 7:00 pm.

Friday, March 25, 2022 - The monthly BEST BREAKFAST will be held in Smithville at **Your Mom’s** located at 109 NW 2nd Street from 8:00-9:30 am.

Saturday, April 2, 2022 - Bastrop County Health Fest & Smithville Empty Bowl Project, downtown Smithville from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. EMPTY BOWL INFO: www.smithvilleemptybowl.com

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

--Robert--



PHOTOS - 3/11/22

Sealcoat and Parking Lot Re-striping @ Veteran's Memorial and MLK Park(s)



Asphalt Zipper Road Work @ Oak Hill Cemetery



Sound Test @ Gazebo



Retaining Wall @ Live Oak and 4th Ave



Drainage Improvements (Miller Street next to MLK Park)



Loop 230 Water Line Extension

