



# City of BUNKER HILL VILLAGE

## NEWSLETTER

PUBLISHED BY THE CITY OF BUNKER HILL VILLAGE | WWW.BUNKERHILLTX.GOV

### *From the Mayor*

June 2021

*Dear Residents,*

I am sure you, like me, are pleased to see the pandemic calming down and being able to get back to a somewhat “normal” life again, each at our own pace. For me it has been great having the chance to have some “in person” time with extended family, friends, colleagues, and residents. Holding in person City Council and Committee Meetings has been great; however, we are still “zooming” meetings and I don’t see that changing as it has been a positive means to stay connected and increase participation. Please note, as usual, Council does not meet for our regular meeting in July, but trust me that we are still very busy with the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Process and workshop discussions to keep our City fiscally sound.

This month, I want share with our residents about some extraordinary individuals. First, I want to highlight **Gama Escamilla, the City’s Public Works Team Leader**. I am sure many of you know Gama as he has just celebrated his **30<sup>th</sup> Year** with the City!! At the same time, I would not be surprised if many of you have not met Gama, as he is always busy behind the scenes making sure our streets, drainage, water, and wastewater infrastructure is in the best shape; not to mention, he diligently maintains the City’s SUPERIOR Water System as rated by the State of Texas. Please join me in thanking Gama for all he does. We are happy to share more about Gama on Page 3.

The other thank you goes out to our **Zoning Board of Adjustment**, which is made up of dedicated and talented volunteers from our community, for their work these past few months. Most notably, the Board approved a variance for the property located at 11646 Memorial Drive (at the corner of Memorial and Briar Forest). The variance will allow for an 8-foot masonry wall to be installed (along with landscaping) as part of the construction of a new single-family home. The variance was contingent on the old house being demolished within a 6-month timeframe. I am sure you join my happiness seeing that the old, unmaintained house was demolished already, and the site is being restored for the construction.

In discussions with the City Council, “thank you” does not seem enough to say to our Public Works Team for all they have done during disasters or crises. Council and I have been discussing renovations to the current metal shed used as a Public Works Facility for some time. We have now made a new Public Works and Disaster Operations Building a top priority. We have also heard from many residents who recognize their service as well. As a result, we are hoping that our residents will join us in adding to the “furnishings and fixtures” of the facility as a thank you to our team. More to come on this topic over the next few months as we complete the budget process. Please let me know if you have ideas or would like to participate in this effort to thank our dedicated Public Works Team!

We are excited about our second annual “pandemic-safe” **Independence Day Car Parade set for Monday, July 5<sup>th</sup>**. We thank Mayor Pappas and the staff of the City of Hunters Creek for taking the lead role in the event this year. For more information about entering your vehicle in the car parade, please contact: [fullen@cityofhunterscreek.com](mailto:fullen@cityofhunterscreek.com). We hope to be back to a fun festival gathering next year! Happy Summer! Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July! Stay Cool and Healthy!

*Humbly yours, Mayor Robert P. Lord*

## Bunker Hill Continues SUPERIOR Water Rating

Bunker Hill Village has once again received the State’s rating of

**SUPERIOR**

for the City’s water system. Review the details in the *City’s 2020 Annual Water Quality Report* available on our website: [https://bunkerhilltx.gov/images/documents/CCR/CCR\\_2020.pdf](https://bunkerhilltx.gov/images/documents/CCR/CCR_2020.pdf)

A printed copy of the report can be requested at 713-467-9762.

Congratulations to our Public Works Team who work diligently in this effort!



*Thank you, Gama Escamilla for 30 Years of Service to the Citizens of Bunker Hill Village. See more about Gama on Page 3.*

**City Hall will be Closed  
Monday, July 5<sup>th</sup>**

**In Observance of Independence Day**



*See you at the parade!*

# City Hall is Always Open via [www.bunkerhilltx.gov](http://www.bunkerhilltx.gov)

*Meet Our Summer Interns – Meredith Bullock and Jonathan Lu*

Bunker Hill Residents, Meredith Bullock and Jonathan Lu have joined the City's Team this year for the summer. Meredith will be a Senior at the University of Texas at Austin this Fall pursuing a 5-Year Undergrad/Master's Degree in Accounting. Jonathan will be a Junior at Virginia Tech majoring in Civil Engineering. Meredith and Jonathan joined Mayor Lord at the Memorial Villages Police Department Food Truck Rodeo (see picture) sharing information about the City. Thank you to all who braved the heat to visit with them at the Bunker Hill booth.

The Interns have also been busy working on the City's Records Management System, helping the City organize files electronically, and assisting staff with the budget process and various analyses.

The Interns have worked to learn the City's website and are available for "High Tech/Low Tech" needs to help you access the City 24/7. See below for the top items requested and provided online:



## ***Technology Assistance***

We are happy to continue our "High Tech/Low Tech City Hall Open House" for the month of July. If you would like to set up a time to work one-on-one with our staff, please call us at 713-467-9762. We can help you navigate our website ([bunkerhilltx.gov](http://bunkerhilltx.gov)), sign up for V-LINC, set up auto pay, and more as listed below.

***V-LINC Communications*** - The V-LINC messaging system serves as the main means of providing emergency and timely communications. We encourage all residents to please [sign up](#) and to ask your neighbors to sign up as well. Our goal is to have 100% participation!

***House Watch Request*** – The House Vacation Watch Program is handled by the Memorial Villages Police Department. This is available on-line before you head out of town. We have added a link to our website under "Resident Services – House Vacation Watch" – This link will direct you to [the MVPD page and form](#). You can also access this form directly via the MVPD website: [www.mvpdtx.org](http://www.mvpdtx.org)

***Non-Emergencies and Other Needs*** – For needs or questions *that can wait* until "Monday" or the next business day, please see our website under [Resident Services – Citizen Requests](#). This information will come as an email directly to staff. Emails are checked on work days. We work diligently to respond as quickly as possible.

***Building Permits*** - Residents can handle permitting needs via the website and by email to [info@bunkerhilltx.gov](mailto:info@bunkerhilltx.gov). We have also set up a link to [schedule mandatory pre-development meetings](#). All requests for inspections must be submitted online. This is a process improvement to better serve you and your contractors and show the progress on your project.

***Tree Removal Permits*** – Tree permits are also available online and there is no fee. Access [the Quick Link at Resident Services – Citizen Requests](#). The Tree Ordinance does require a tree count and replacement of certain (large) trees removed. If you have owned your home prior to 1996, you are exempt from the "tree count" but you must still obtain a permit.

## ***Trash and Recycling Concerns***

Use the [Citizen Request Form](#) to report missed collections or other concerns and we will work with Texas Pride to resolve. Please let us know within 24 hours of any missed service. Please note: Tealwood Residents should notify their HOA.

## ***Utility Bills - Auto Draft Payments Available***

We encourage all residents to consider "Auto Draft" to pay your utility bill by credit card or bank draft. "Auto Draft" is secure, debits your account on the due date and ensures no late fees or cut offs. Look for "[online payments](#)" on the website.

## ***Dear Residents,***

I too wanted to join Mayor Lord in extending a special thank you and congratulations to Gama Escamilla for 30 years of public service working for the City's Public Works Department! As City Administrator, I feel so blessed to be a part of Gama's Team! As stated, thank you is just not enough to say to someone that you can always trust and count on especially in those emergencies that we have experienced this year. Gama is always there!

When Gama started here at the City, he was 25 years old and shared that *"it was supposed to be a temporary job."* We certainly are thankful that he enjoyed the variety of work and multiple responsibilities and made Bunker Hill his *"permanent employment home."*

Thirty years later, Gama is married to his wonderful wife, Alicia. They have two lovely daughters, a Saint Edwards University Graduate, Bianca, and younger daughter Bella who shares her Dad's heart for public service. The family is always serving others and volunteering their time to great needs!

Gama's favorite part of the job is helping residents and ensuring we provide safe drinking water. Although, I think he also loves those parades! His creativity and implementation of crazy ideas like a "dump truck turned dog" is always amazing to see!!

When Gama started working for the City, most streets had open ditches which have now been covered with improved drainage. He is also proud of the beautification of the city with adding the walking paths, decorative street signs, trees, and landscaping. His most recent projects include rehabilitating the aging water and wastewater lines.

It has been a pleasure working with Gama over the years. Here's to many more!



*Karen Glynn, City Administrator*



**Public Works Team Leader, Gama Escamilla,** shares that his favorite part of the job is helping residents and providing safe (and superior!) drinking water.

## ***Bunker Hill's Superior Water System***

As shared on the front page, we are very proud of our Public Works Team and the SUPERIOR results of the City's 2020 Annual Water Quality Report. Bunker Hill Village has a Utility Fund that is self-supporting through our rate structure. This includes taking care of wells, pumps, tanks, and both water and wastewater lines, ensuring our utility system is maintained for years to come. The City purchases water from the City of Houston to ensure we are in compliance with the Harris Galveston County Subsidence District's requirements. Along with drinking, our water is also used for many purposes including landscaping. See our "tips" on page 4 to help with water usage (and your bill!) during these hot summer months.

## Summer Reminders:

### Water Tips

- Adjust irrigation systems to water deeply and infrequently to promote good root growth and healthy plants.
- Mulch flower beds and shrubs to help retain the moisture longer.
- Have irrigation systems inspected annually to find damaged valves & heads.
- Install quality rain detection devices to shut the system off during rain.
- Adjust systems to operate in the early morning hours before 5 am.
- Choose sprinkler heads which produce larger drops and not a fine mist.
- And for storm water, do not blow grass clippings and leaves down storm drains.

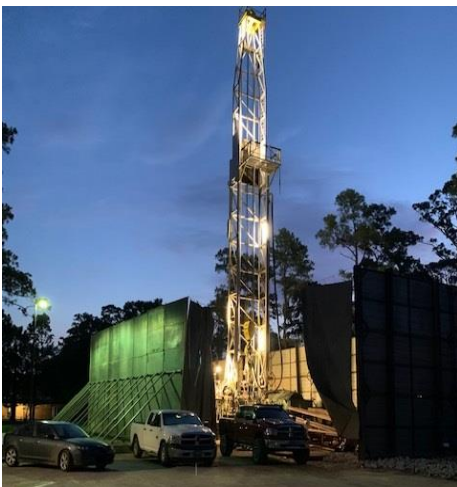
### Hurricane Season

June 1st marked the first day of hurricane season - Please take some time to review the information on our website for [hurricane preparedness](#) - found under "Latest News."

One area in particular is the link to sign up for "[power alerts](#)" with CenterPoint. This is a great tool - you will need information from your electric bill so have that bill handy.

## Update on Projects

- The Beautification Committee has been busy cleaning up the City's landscaping following the winter storm. The City is also continuing to extend new street lighting along Memorial Drive.
- Bunker Hill Road is experiencing some base failures. Our engineering team is taking core samples and the City Council has authorized funding to make the needed repairs once the analysis is completed.
- Tree plantings have continued in the City through the dedication program and also, utilizing funds from the City's "Offsite Tree Fund" whereby fees are collected with new home construction for properties that meet the minimum tree count but still are required to replace trees removed. This helps re-forest the City as a whole.
- The reconstruction of Bunker Hill Elementary School and the drilling of the City's new water well are in full gear this summer. Many thanks to adjacent residents for their patience and understanding of these critical projects and the critical construction timing during these summer months. See photos below!
- City Hall Water Storage Tank – This project has been completed by the Contractor. Thank you to our neighbors during this project as well!



*Progress is well underway at the Bunker Hill Elementary School Site as the School District and the City take advantage of the summer months. Most underground work for the school has been completed. Pavement is now in progress. The City's test well was completed, and once samples are deemed successful, the well drilling for the permanent well will begin. These new facilities will serve the City for years to come.*