

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Paul A. Hofmann, City Manager
Date: July 22, 2022
Subject: Weekly Memo, July 18 – July 22, 2022



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Personnel Updates

Nate Tomlin began employment on July 22, as a Firefighter

Jon Eden began working in the Information Technology Department on June 20 through the Bastrop Independent School District Summer Internship Program. The four-week program ended on July 12. He did such a great job that IT Manager, Jaime Saldivar, has hired him as a temp for an additional 80 hours to help deploy new computers and complete small IT projects.

Upcoming Training

Below are future training opportunities. If you are interested in attending any of the trainings, please notify the City Secretary and she will take care of the registration for you.

TML-TAMCC Newly Elected City Officials' Orientation

Date: August 11 - August 12
Time: All Day
Location: San Antonio

TML Region 10 Meeting

Date: September 20
Time: 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Location: Williamson County Expo Center
Taylor, Texas

TML – Annual Conference and Exhibition **ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS ARE REGISTERED**

Date: October 5 – October 7
Time: All Day
Location: San Antonio

TML Economic Development Conference

Date: November 17 – November 18
Time: All Day
Location: Hyatt Lost Pines

Special Events

The 2nd Annual Jack of Hearts Scholarship Fundraiser will be held at the Convention Center on Saturday, July 23, from 4:00 pm-11:30 pm. This is a ticketed event raising scholarship funds for students wanting to go into trades. The evening includes dinner and entertainment. Tickets are \$100. For more information contact 512.304.8190 (Justin Love)

We have a special Farm Street Opry night in store for you! Join us on August 4th as we get “Lost in the 50’s”. We’ll be featuring traditional country music with The Farm Street Opry Band, and rock n’ roll classics by The Johnathan’s! Take a stroll around the larger dance floor and enjoy great music from the bygone era of the Golden Oldies....Elvis, Buddy Holly, Roy Orbison & more! Admission is \$7.50, kids 10 & under- free! Doors open at 5:30 pm to enjoy Roadhouse concessions and the show starts at 7:00 pm.

Library News

This is the eighth and final week of the summer reading program Oceans of Possibilities. This week 103 people attended LEGO Rama, our monthly LEGO Club and Catherine Lombardo hosted an ice cream social on Wednesday as part of the Coffee with Catherine program. The final event is the Tropical End of Summer party on Saturday where we will have the grand prize drawings for everyone who completed their goal of reading 500-minutes. Statistics for the week: 853 registrations for reading and 414 of those registered have reached the 500-minute reading goal, 605 registrations for the Community Adventure, 2,217 books and other materials checked out, and 1,692 people walked through the doors.

Saturday, the library will only be open from 11:00 am - 2:00 pm for the End of Summer Reading Party.

Upcoming Ribbon Cuttings

August 9 at 12:00 pm Gravity District, Aerial Studio. Location is 201 Hunters Crossing Blvd., #14
August 11 at 3:00 pm River Loop Sidewalk Project. Location is Coffee Dog on Loop 150

Employee Appreciation Lunch

The annual Employee Appreciation Lunch will be held on August 5, 11 am – 1 pm at the Convention Center. Council is invited to attend.

BP&L Tree Trimming

The contracted tree trimming is scheduled to begin within a week. The target date to start is next Monday, July 25, with a 3-week completion. Below is some background for your reference.

- LCRA gives the City of Bastrop access to LCRA’s tree trimming services contract with McCoy Tree Surgery. LCRA charges the City an administration fee for administering the program.
- McCoy’s will be pruning trees and brush away from power lines in designated areas.
- The City gives McCoy Tree Surgery a list of lines/areas that were inspected and need to be cleared. Areas serviced are usually problematic for city equipment/crews to reach and backyard ROW since they are specialists in tree climbing.
- McCoy’s personnel will distribute door hangers and brochures provided by LCRA (copies attached) to customers where work is being performed.
- The cost was budgeted in the System Maintenance Account.

Coastal Conservation Association Texas Fundraiser

Visit Bastrop is pleased to announce that the Coastal Conservation Association will be at the Bastrop Convention Center on July 28. There is an expected attendance of 300 people. The Coastal Conservation Association is a non-profit marine conservation organization. It is comprised of 17 coastal state chapters spanning the Gulf of Mexico, the Atlantic seaboard, and the Pacific Northwest. CCA’s strength is drawn from the thousands of recreational saltwater anglers who make up its membership.

Volunteer Opportunities

The Bastrop Chamber is looking for volunteers to help stuff bags for new teachers on July 28 from 9 am - 12 pm at the Chamber.

Overheard at City Hall

Join City Manager Paul A. Hofmann on a visit to the Bastrop Public Library! Paul talks with Carmen Serna, Children's Services Associate and Veronica (Ronni) Nunez, Executive Administrative Assistant about the success of the 2022 Summer Reading Program, how important volunteers are to the library, and the vital role the library plays in our community. View episode 7 here: <https://youtu.be/2qeu6qi6xLI>

Upcoming TXDoT Closures

The U-turn west of the Colorado River and the U-turn at Lovers Lane will be closed Sunday night July 24 from 8:00 pm – Monday morning July 25 5:00 am. Northbound traffic from Lovers Lane will be closed using the Tahitian Detour.

For the remainder of the week, the East Bound Frontage Road (a portion of which carries the East Bound Main Lane traffic) and the West Bound Frontage Road will have various lane closures. It is expected that only one lane will be closed at any one time during this period.

These closures will be from 8:00 pm – 5:00 am ending Friday morning July 29.

These closures will allow the contractor to perform paving operations on the U-turns and frontage roads.

Future Agenda Items

August 09, 2022

- Consider Resolution to adopt a tax rate for Fiscal Year 2022-2023
- Presentation of Quarterly Report for April – June 2022
- Consider ordinance related to utilities and fee schedule

Attachments

- McCoy Tree Trimming Handouts
- TML Legislative Update Number #29

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WHAT YOU SHOULD EXPECT FROM MCCOY

- 1.** McCoy trimmers will work safely and efficiently to trim trees to obtain the required clearance from power lines.
- 2.** If a major portion of your tree must be removed to obtain the proper clearance, a member of the crew will discuss the situation with you prior to making the cut. In some cases, removal of the tree may be the best option.
- 3.** The crew will leave your yard and driveway area as clean or cleaner than before the work was started.

Please do not ask the crews to trim trees that do not affect the reliability of electric service.

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IF YOU NEED TO CONTACT SOMEONE

To verify the legitimacy of the McCoy crews or for more information, contact your McCoy area supervisor:

Julio Falcon

800-462-2393

jfalcon@mccoytree.com

TREE TRIMMING AND POWER LINES



TREE MANAGEMENT COORDINATED THROUGH



The Lower Colorado River Authority helps city-owned utilities and electric cooperatives keep electricity flowing to their consumers affordably, reliably and safely. Tree management services are coordinated through LCRA.

Tree trimming services are provided by
your local utility and McCoy Tree Surgery.



McCoy Tree Surgery

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TREES AND POWER LINES DON'T MIX

Trees growing too close to electric lines can cause damage or interrupt power to you or your neighbors. Proper clearances must be maintained to ensure safety and help avoid power outages.

McCoy Tree Surgery, which specializes in vegetation management for the electric utility industry, partners with your local utility to prune trees near electric power lines when it has been determined that branches may, or have begun to, impact power lines.

McCoy's pruning methods comply with industry standards for safety and tree care, and are endorsed by the International Society of Arboriculture and the Tree Care Industry Association. These standards promote quality tree care while ensuring safe and reliable electric service.

There is no charge to you for these tree-trimming services.

UNPRUNED TREES CAUSE POWER OUTAGES

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During severe storms, wind-blown or ice-laden tree limbs that contact power lines are the most common cause of electric power outages. Just one tree limb can knock out electric service to dozens of families.

Tree management trimming is designed to virtually eliminate outages caused by trees. Following international arboricultural standards, McCoy workers trim trees so limbs will not interfere with electric lines for at least three years.

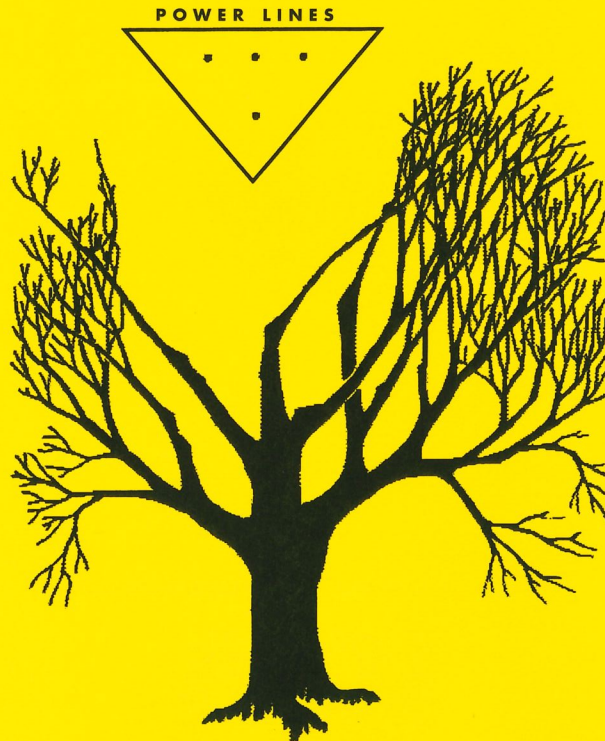
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PROPER TRIMMING METHODS

Ideally, trees should not be planted beneath power lines. Unfortunately, thousands of trees are growing too close to power lines. These trees must be trimmed to prevent safety hazards and power outages.

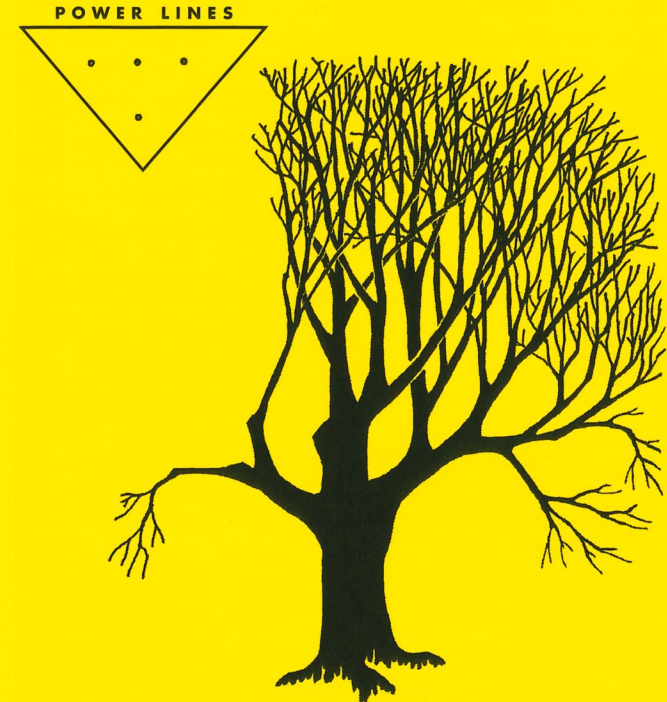
How trees are trimmed is important. If trees are not trimmed properly, power outages may occur and your tree may be damaged. McCoy's trimming techniques protect the health of trees and direct the tree to grow away from electric lines through directional trimming.

The illustrations show how trees growing too close to power lines must be trimmed. The four dots represent the electric lines. Notice how trimming helps the tree grow away from the power lines.



Your tree may look like this if it grows to the side of a power line. Notice that proper trimming maintains proper clearance both below and to the sides of the power lines.

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WHAT IF DRASTIC TRIMMING IS NEEDED?

In some cases, obtaining the proper clearance from power lines requires removal of a major portion of your tree. If McCoy determines it is necessary to remove large branches all the way to the trunk, this option will be discussed with you prior to trimming.

In order to protect the tree, cuts will only be made at certain arteries. In no case will proper trimming techniques be compromised or a cut made that will harm your tree.

Dear Customer,

Date ____ / ____ / ____

Vegetation management specialists under contract with your electric utility will soon be in your neighborhood. These professionals will be pruning trees or clearing brush, away from power lines, that could interfere with essential electric service or become a hazard.

Trees and Power Lines Don't Mix

Trees growing too close to electric lines can cause damage or interrupt service to you or your neighbors. Proper clearances must be maintained to assure safety and to help avoid power outages.

If you are not home on the day of the work, we will proceed in a professional manner with any necessary pruning and clean-up.

If you have any questions concerning the work to be done, please call

Julio Falcon (Area Supervisor)
Voice mail: (800) 462-2393
(leave a message. Julio will call you back.)

Thank you for your cooperation; it's a pleasure to serve you.

Bastrop Power and Light



McCoy Tree Surgery

512-332-8830

Estimado Cliente:

Fecha ___/___/___

Especialistas en jardinería estarán en su área muy pronto. Estos profesionales están bajo contrato con el servicio de electricidad. Los especialistas podarán las ramas de árboles y arbustos que se encuentren cerca de los cables de electricidad, ya que éstas pueden interferir con su servicio o ser un peligro.

Los Árboles y Los Cables de Electricidad No Se Llevan Bien.

Los árboles que se encuentran muy cerca de los cables de electricidad pueden causar daños o interrumpir el servicio de electricidad para usted y/o para sus vecinos. Al sistema de cableado se le debe de dar mantenimiento para su seguridad y evitar apagones.

Si usted no se encuentra en su casa el día en que se lleve a cabo este trabajo, no se preocupe, nosotros procederemos de una manera profesional limpiando los restos de ramas que hayan sido podadas.

Si usted tiene alguna pregunta acerca de este trabajo, por favor llame a:

Julio Falcon (Supervisor)
Telefónicos: 800-462-2393
(Por favor deje su recado con lada y número de teléfono, Julio se comunicará con UD.)

Gracias por su cooperación; es un placer servirle.



McCoy Tree Surgery

**Compañía de Electricidad de
Bastrop Power and Light
512-332-8830**



July 22, 2022
Number 29

Railroad Commission Proposes Rule on Weather Emergency Preparedness Standards

The Railroad Commission (RRC) [is proposing](#) a rule relating to the weatherization of certain natural gas supply chain facility operators as required by Senate Bill 3. The proposed rule would apply to the following facilities that are included on the electricity supply chain map: (1) gas supply chain facilities that are used for producing, treating, processing, pressurizing, storing, or transporting natural gas as well as handling waste produced; and (2) gas pipeline facility operators that directly serve a natural gas electric generation facility that operates solely to provide power to the electric grid for the ERCOT power region or for the ERCOT power region and an adjacent power region. Importantly, Senate Bill 3 specifies that only certain gas supply chain facility operators and certain gas pipeline facility operators that are included on the electricity supply chain map and designated as critical infrastructure by the RRC must comply with the proposed rule. The RRC has additional information [here](#).

Some city officials may be interested in the proposed rule because the proposed weatherization standards for natural gas supply chain facilities will affect the ability of electricity generators to obtain natural gas for electricity production in an extreme weather event.

Interested persons may submit comments in the following ways: (1) by mail to Rules Coordinator, Office of General Counsel, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711-2967; (2) online at www.rrc.texas.gov/general-counsel/rules/comment-form-for-proposed-rulemakings; or (3) by electronic mail to rulescoordinator@rrc.texas.gov. Comments must be filed by 5:00 p.m. on **August 15, 2022**.

Texas House Investigative Committee Releases Report

On Sunday, the Texas House Investigative Committee on the Robb Elementary Shooting released its report. Speaker Phelan previously appointed the special investigative committee last month to conduct an examination into the circumstances surrounding the shooting at Robb Elementary in Uvalde. The full report can be found [here](#).

Federal Infrastructure Bill Update

In November 2021, the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) was signed into law. The IIJA is altogether a \$1.2 trillion bill that will invest in the nation's core infrastructure priorities including roads, bridges, rail, transit, airports, ports, energy transmission, water systems, and broadband.

The League will monitor state and federal agencies and work with the National League of Cities (NLC) to access the latest information relating to the IIJA. We will be providing periodic updates in the Legislative Update on resources for Texas cities on how to access IIJA funding for local infrastructure projects.

Department of Energy (DOE)

On July 6, DOE [announced](#) the opening of the application period for states to apply for \$2.3 billion under the Preventing Outages and Enhancing the Resilience of the Electric Grid grant program. The program awards formula grants to states that are designed to strengthen and modernize the power grid against wildfires, extreme weather, and other natural disasters. Texas is slated to receive over \$30 million in grants throughout the life of the program under the IIJA. Funding under the program can be used for grid resilience activities, including:

- Utility pole upkeep and removal of trees and other vegetation affecting grid performance
- Undergrounding electrical equipment
- Relocating or re-conductoring power lines
- Improvements to make the grid resistant to extreme weather
- Increasing fire resistant components
- Implementing monitoring, controls, and advanced modeling for real-time situational awareness
- Integrating distributed energy resources like micro-grids and energy storage

More on the program can be found [here](#). The deadline for states to apply for the funding is September 30. At this point, it is unclear how the Texas funding will be dispersed once received.

National League of Cities (NLC)

The [Local Infrastructure Hub](#), sponsored by NLC and the U.S. Conference of Mayors, among others, is now live. The Hub is designed to help city officials navigate the funding programs made available by the IIJA. Interested city officials can sign up for the mailing list, attend virtual learning events, and access articles and other resources on some of the key IIJA funding opportunities.

NLC recently [published an article](#) detailing the Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) grant program. The SMART program provides \$500 million to states and local governments nationwide for transportation projects focused on advanced smart city technologies and systems.

House and Senate Committee Interim Hearings

The Texas House and Senate Committees are underway studying interim charges outlined by Speaker Phelan and Lt. Governor Dan Patrick.

Below is a full list of committee hearings set to hear certain city-related charges. All hearings will be held at the Texas Capitol unless otherwise indicated. If a committee has newly posted notice and was not included in last week's edition of the *Legislative Update*, it is indicated as such.

House Committee on Natural Resources

The committee will meet on Tuesday, August 23 at 10:00 a.m. to hear the following interim charges:

Review the adequacy and efficiency of current mechanisms used to compensate water right holders when the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality temporarily transfers a water right under an emergency authorization. Make appropriate recommendations for the protection of private property rights of water right holders.

Information on the hearing, including how to register and submit electronic comment, can be found [here](#).

House Committee on Natural Resources

The committee will meet on Wednesday, August 24 at 10:00 a.m. to hear the following interim charges:

Examine the condition of Texas' water and flood mitigation infrastructure capabilities and consider future infrastructure needs. Evaluate sustainable funding sources to provide for water project development and infrastructure repair and replacement. Examine and

make recommendations for cost-effective improvements that enhance the state's available water supply.

Note: the desalination portion of this charge will be held at a later date.

Examine the state's groundwater management policy and regulatory framework. Include a review of large-scale water transfers and their impact on groundwater resources. Make appropriate recommendations for legislation or state agency action to:

- Promote the achievement of planning goals under Chapter 36, Water Code, including those involving desired future conditions;
- Provide adequate transparency to the permit application process;
- Further the state's groundwater quality protection efforts, including an assessment of risks posed to groundwater by abandoned and deteriorated water wells and orphan oil and gas wells; and
- Promote conservation and waste prevention.

Information on the hearing, including how to register and submit electronic comment, can be found [here](#).

Don't Forget: Resolutions for 2022 Annual Conference Due August 22

Resolutions for consideration at the Annual Conference are due no later than 5:00 p.m. on **August 22, 2022**. The TML Constitution provides that resolutions must be submitted by any member city, TML region, or TML affiliate to the TML headquarters 45 calendar days prior to the first day of the Annual Conference.

The League's advocacy efforts are based on a legislative program that is developed by member city officials in two ways.

First, a member city, TML region, or TML affiliate may submit a resolution for consideration at the business meeting of each year's Annual Conference. Each city is asked to provide one delegate to serve as its liaison at the meeting. The representatives will be briefed on the content of the resolutions and given a chance to discuss and vote on whether they merit inclusion in the legislative program. The resolutions form the basis of a fixed legislative program, under which – each session – modifications to the program will be made only if needed.

Second, member city officials can participate in the League's Municipal Policy Summit during the summer of 2022. The report of the Summit takes the form of a resolution that is submitted to the Annual Conference in interim years. The summit participants have been appointed by the TML President based on volunteers and others chosen to balance the demographics of the TML membership at large.

Details on the submission process can be found [here](#).

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