



## October Newsletter;

### City of Marion Updates from Mayor Victor Contreras;

Well it is beginning to be that time of the year, the Holiday Season is once again upon us. We are in the planning stage of our Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony, which this year will be on Friday December 4<sup>th</sup> though it may come about in a more secure way. I for one thinks it is time to get back to some type of normalcy and traditions that we have enjoyed in past.

A big thank you to Public Works Department employees Ernie, Bill, Mike and Isaac for working to install the lights along with handling their regular responsibilities. We should also thank **Councilman David Bauch** who has graciously been donating his time to help install the lights and with the Community Library project. With the amount of bulbs, we place out each year we have to start at this time to be ready by the December event.

We will be conducting a **Veterans Day Program** dedicating the “**Gold Star**” in **Veterans Park** being donated by the Guadalupe Master Gardeners, this organization does an excellent job taking care of the park, if you find yourself with some free time I know they would welcome any and all help that the Marion residents can spare. Veterans Day program will be on November 11, 2020 at 7:30am in the downtown park with the COVID restrictions, CDC guidelines and protocols adopted by the County and City in place. Instructions will be posted at the event but If you would like to view them beforehand, you can come by the City Hall from 8am to 5pm M-F for a copy.

**New Traffic light;** I have been in contact with TX Dot in my normal day to day duties as the Mayor and I have spoken to them on one of a few concerns we have had for quite some time. This one deals with needing a traffic light at the corner of LaVernia Street and San Antonio St. (FM78). It is very difficult for cars and school busses to cross FM 78 from La Vernia St. and even harder for the children that have to walk to school. I called and was advised that because we met three of the parameters, we were approved to have another signal light but now we have to wait for the Union Pacific Railroad for their approval. The way it has been explained to me, it might be an extensive time consuming undertaking but the good news is we will have one in the future.

The City Staff, Council and myself have been working throughout the summer on our Budget and Tax rate. After numerous meetings we have set our **Budget and Tax Rate for the 2020-2021 year**. The Budget will be \$1,610,360.00 and we have kept the Tax Rate the **same as last year** (0.4801 per \$100 valuation) this figure includes the 0.0215 cents per \$100 evaluation on the Interest & Sinking side to pay for the \$65,000 to remodel the City Hall and Police department. As we went through the construction and budget process we said we wouldn't raise any new taxes to pay for the remodel. The same Tax Rate as last year will raise about \$24,000 this year because of the new houses that have been built and property values that have increased.

When you see your Council members around town reach out and thank them for their service to your community.

**Great News** we have one of our restaurants back, the **Subway Restaurant** had their Grand-Reopening on Wednesday October 14<sup>th</sup>. They have started with an abbreviated schedule from 10am to 7pm and will gradually go to a fulltime schedule.

**Marion Residents** please continue to embrace the COVID-19 guidelines to keep you, your family and neighbors safe and healthy. When going outside and entering the businesses please Practice Social Distancing, wear your Masks, wash your hands when water is available and when not use your Hand Sanitizer.

**Thank you and God Bless America,**

*Mayor Victor Contreras*