

# seabrook **REVIEW**



Featured on pg. 5&6

## BREAKFAST WITH *Santa*! *in memory of Lois Mohrhusen*



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# From Mayor Kolupski

With the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) State Highway 146 Expansion Project slated to break ground in February 2019, Seabrook city management and staff along with the Seabrook City Council are partnering with TxDOT during construction to coordinate and communicate in the best means possible with our residents and visitors. While the expansion is not a city project, the city is in constant contact with the state and their contractors to stay informed. The city's communication department along with the Seabrook Economic Development Corporation (SEDC) has been maintaining a blog to help inform the public about businesses which have been closed and demolished. Staff recently updated [SH146.com](http://SH146.com) and you can now sign up for email notifications plus additional information such as lane closures, detours and construction updates that will be added to the site as they are made available.

At this time, the project will begin on the southside of Seabrook at the Seabrook Channel Bridge and continue northbound towards the Red Bluff overpass. TxDOT has ensured us that four (4) lanes of traffic will always remain open during construction, with additional lane closures when necessary, limited to off peak night hours. With that said, traffic delays may still occur throughout the construction project, especially during our commuting hours.

The city through a partnership with the SEDC has finalized with TxDOT a beautiful, and only in Seabrook, highway design standard which will enhance the seaside characteristics of our community. The designs include a sailboat motif on the side walls of the overpasses, white powder-coated traffic signals and LED lighting with nautical bollards under the underpasses. Future projects in the works call for nautical gateway signage at the city entrances with possible boardwalk and LED lighting under the Seabrook Channel Bridge.

TxDOT and Harris County have also announced another road expansion project on Red Bluff, starting in 2019, extending west from SH 146 and spanning approximately 1.5 miles. This project will widen the westbound roadway from two (2) to three (3) lanes and build a new bridge over Taylor Lake south of the existing bridge, for eastbound traffic. In addition, a ten (10) foot wide hike and bike trail will begin at Kirby and carry across the new bridge to SH 146. The city is researching possible kayak launch sites in the area, to be built once the project is complete.

The SEDC and city staff have been diligently working to provide new opportunities for developers looking to expand into Seabrook. You may have noticed construction has begun on the planned retail center on SH 146 in front of The Towers luxury apartment complex. This two-building center will be known as The Commons and will be able to accommodate a number of new retail locations. Progress continues on the Chesapeake Bay Active Senior Living complex on Repsdorff Road and they anticipate opening a portion of the property by the end of the year. There has also been outstanding interest by many new businesses that have a desire to move to Seabrook and we remain optimistic that these businesses will make Seabrook their new home.

The next few years will be demanding on our residents, visitors, city staff and City Council. Our foremost focus will be on public safety, mobility and improving our economy. We ask everyone to have patience and understanding during construction, but we also would like your input when a problem or issue is noticed or perceived. Please, do not hesitate to bring issues or concerns to our attention. Beginning in the new year I plan to host and attend events that allow our residents to meet with me and other members of Council and staff to discuss what is happening in our city. I live here too, and I want all of our residents to know that we are in this together.

## OUR VISION

Seabrook is a sustainable, energetic and beautiful coastal community that embraces environmental stewardship, fosters safe neighborhoods and promotes tourism and economic diversity.

## CITY COUNCIL

Mayor, Thom Kolupski  
Mayor Pro Tem, Natalie Picha  
Position 1, Ed Klein  
Position 2, Laura Davis  
Position 3, Jeff Larson  
Position 5, Buddy Hamman  
Position 6, Joe Machol

## CITY MANAGEMENT

City Manager, Gayle Cook  
Deputy CM, Sean Landis

## CITY SECRETARY

Robin Hicks

## CITY ATTORNEY

Steve Weathered

*Editor & Designer of  
Seabrook's City Review  
LeaAnn Dearman Petersen, CPC*

# 146 TEXAS HIGHWAY EXPANSION PROJECT



## Pardon the mess

TxDOT is actively demolishing businesses along SH 146 and it may be getting a little messy. Please pardon the mess as they prepare for the construction phase of the SH 146 Expansion Project. We want to share with you **WHAT WE KNOW** about the project and what you can anticipate moving forward.

### RS&H

PROJECT ENGINEERING FIRM

### webber

PROJECT CONSTRUCTION FIRM



Utility relocations will begin at the end of 2018 and will continue through the beginning of the new year.



### CONSTRUCTION OFFICE

An office will be set up at Red Bluff & SH 146 on the westside of the intersection for engineering & construction personnel.

### BOAT RAMP



The public boat ramp located under the Seabrook-Kemah Bridge will close some time at the beginning of the new year.



## Construction Phasing

Construction is slated to begin in either February or March of 2019 and will be broken into two primary phases.



Widen northbound side of existing bridge



Construction of northbound Seabrook frontage road



Widen southbound side of existing bridge



Construction of southbound Seabrook frontage road



Construction of new Express Bridge

# PHASE 1

# PHASE 2

Phase 1 will be a 12-15 month process - Phase 2 will start after Phase 1 is complete and will be at least a 2 year process. Additional information and scheduling will be released as it becomes available.



connect with us  
[www.SH146.com](http://www.SH146.com)

We know this project is going to have a **MAJOR IMPACT** on your life and we want to do our best to communicate with you during construction. Our blog has been active for some time, but the newly designed website is now **LIVE!**

Go check it out and sign up to receive email updates. We will email updates as they are made available to us and all of our updates will always be posted to [SH146.com](http://SH146.com). Following the City of Seabrook on Facebook, Twitter and Nextdoor is also a great way to get and share information!



# Public Safety Fund

Helping to make Seabrook a Safe and Secure City!



Have you looked at your utility bill lately? Did you know that all utility customers have the option of donating \$3 each month to the City's Public Safety Fund? If you didn't know, now you do. Every utility customer is automatically opted into the program, but can opt out at any time. The funds received from your contribution helps to purchase special equipment for our Police, Fire, Public Works, and Emergency Management departments. In addition, funds also help assist our Citizens Emergency Response Team, aka CERT. Recent purchases include:

- High Water Vehicle for flood rescues
- Tablets for Emergency and Public Works field work prior to, during and after storms
- Rescue Dry Suits for the SVFD
- GIS Software and Hardware
- School Zone Beacons
- External Defibrillators for public facilities

These are just a few items that have been purchased. The Public Safety Task Force meets on a monthly basis to discuss current needs and develop a yearly budget that is adopted by City Council in January each year.

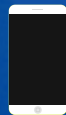
**AN AVERAGE SEABROOK HOMEOWNER SPENDS JUST OVER \$100\* PER MONTH FOR...**

police, fire, ems, animal control, streets, drainage, parks, events, trails, code enforcement, permitting, court services, emergency management, other city services

*\*Based on an average home value of \$221,040 & the adopted tax rate of \$0.551983*



**AN AVERAGE CABLE & CELL PHONE BILL IS \$173 PER MONTH**



**PORT HOUSTON**  
THE INTERNATIONAL PORT OF TEXAS



**BAYPORT RAIL SPUR**

Port Houston is expected to begin the construction of the Bayport Rail Spur soon. Residents can expect increased activity in this area as three (3) at grade Quiet Zone rail crossings will be constructed on the SH 146 feeder road and Old SH 146.



**Capital Improvement Projects (CIP)**  
**IMPROVING SEABROOK ONE PROJECT AT A TIME**

**WATER & WASTE WATER**

- SH 146 Water & Sewer Relocations
- Old Seabrook Waterline Improvements
- Chloramine Conversation
- NASA Parkway Waterline Improvements
- Old SH 146 Waterline Interconnect
- New Wastewater Treatment Plant

**STREETS & INFRASTRUCTURE**

- Marvin Circle Street
- SCADA Hardware & Software for Water Supply Monitoring
- Outfalls in Lake Cove & Seascape
- Commercial Vehicle Pad Site under Red Bluff Overpass
- Fire Station Floor Re-coating
- Fiber Network Projects on Water Infrastructure Connectivity

**CITY PARKS & OPEN SPACES**

- Palm Tree Planting on Main Street
- Baybrook Tennis Court Repaving
- Robinson Park Parking Lot Expansion

**SH 146 BEAUTIFICATION**

- Aesthetic Enhancement Project along the newly expanded SH 146 corridor



Each year Seabrook City Council reviews and approves large improvement projects. These projects are commonly referred to as the City's CIP. Fiscal year 2018/19

# Breakfast with Santa

I began working for Seabrook in January 2012 and almost seven years later I am still in love with this community. Breakfast with Santa is one of my favorite events of the year and this year's event will live in my memory forever.

In 2014, right after Thanksgiving, I sat down with Lois Mohrhusen, the founder of Breakfast with Santa and interviewed her for a short documentary about the cherished Seabrook event. At the time my son was five years old and this would be our third year to attend the event. And even though my son always refused to sit in Santa's lap because of his irrational fear of the bearded man, he did love to go to the event each year, mostly for the pancakes. My son is now nine, almost ten, and this year he volunteered to help with the event running photographs to and from the printer to Miss Nancy and Miss Hilda. As usual he refused to have his picture taken with Santa, but still believes in jolly Ole Saint Nick, stating "I wrote him a letter this year, so I don't need to tell him what I want."



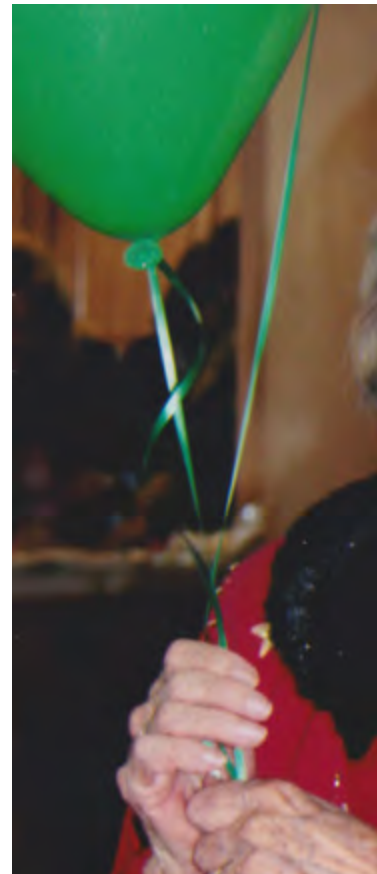
My son John at age 4

I digress remembering my son and the memories we have created over the years, I am writing this article to remember Lois Mohrhusen. On October 17, 2018, shortly after our annual Celebration Seabrook event, city staff along with the Breakfast with Santa Committee began planning for the 2018 event. Ronica Hall took on the role of chair of the Breakfast with Santa Committee a few years ago but has been involved with the event since its inception in 1997. As Ronica began the meeting, she gave a short background about the event for any new comers to the group.

We all smiled and laughed as she fondly recalled Lois starting the event 22 years ago. Anyone who met or had known Lois over the years quickly fell in love with her compassionate yet fiery spirit. Ronica remembered when Lois came up with the idea of the girl scouts dressing like elves. She remembered Lois spending hours cutting the perfect pattern out of newspaper and then personally buying bolts of red and green felt to hand make each elf costume. I smiled as Ronica talked about this as I too remembered sitting with Lois in front of the beautiful Christmas decorations at Lakewood Yacht Club and her telling me this story herself. "Every year Ronica takes home the elf costumes and she takes care of them" said Lois. "I don't know how they've lasted so long, but they have". After Lois told the story of the costumes her sweet laughter filled the room and I chuckled right along with her.

My personal favorite story from Lois was when she recalled a year that she was unable to attend. That year the weather was bad, and Lois decided it was best if she stayed home. After the event started, she received a phone call from Jackie Tingle, who also helped to start the event in 1997. Jackie called to tell Lois that a little boy had been looking everywhere for her. Most children who attended every year thought of Lois as Mrs. Claus and this boy was distraught because he could not find Mrs. Claus. Jackie let the little boy personally call Lois to check on her. The little boy said "Mrs. Claus are you alright?" And Lois said, "yes honey I had to stay home because of the weather." As Lois remembered this story she teared up as did I and still do when I watch the video interview. Now I tear up writing this article remembering Lois and her kindness and love she shared with the Seabrook community over the years.

We continued to plan the 2018 event, each of us having a different memory of Lois over the years. Saul Garcia, a Public





Works Superintendent, recalled one year when Lois gently grabbed him by the ear to get his attention. Jeff Galyean, the Director of the Office of Emergency Management, recalled when he was a Seabrook police officer and Lois asked him to take pictures of the children with Santa. Jeff took pictures for several years and then his daughter, Peyton, stepped in to take the photos; Peyton is now a senior at Clear Creek High School. Jeff still works behind the scenes printing each and every child's picture with Santa.

Planning the event is easy and simple as Lois, Ronica, Jackie, the Seabrook Rotary and several others over the years have worked out the majority of the flaws and kinks. As we left, Ronica mentioned she would call Lois later and let her know that we just finished our kick-off meeting and this year's event is sure to be another success; plus, she planned to let her know that she found someone to make new elf costumes based off the pattern that Lois created so many years ago. One day later, we received the news of Lois' passing at the age of 98. I wish I would have had more time to chat with Lois. Not just about Breakfast with Santa, but about all of her memories of Seabrook.

Lois moved to Seabrook in 1969 and her and her husband Fred immediately became immersed in the community, volunteering when and where they could. Lois was involved in so many civic activities that it is difficult to list them all. A few were: Lunar Rendezvous Festival volunteer and Chairman (1975 and 1977 and later, Advisory Board Chairman), First Lady of Lakewood Yacht Club (1983), Founder and Chairman of Friends of Seabrook, President of Seabrook Association, Chairman of Fire and Rescue Boat Fundraising Committee (which resulted in the boat being christened the "Miss Lois" in her honor), established "Wednesdays in the Park" for children, Distinguished Citizen of Clear Lake Chamber of Commerce Award, Seabrook Parks Board member, Member of Seabrook City Council and Mayor Pro Tem, Seabrook Citizen of the Year Award, Recipient of Key to the City of Seabrook, Twice inducted into the Women of Heart Hall of Fame (Turning Point for Women), Eckerds National Top 100 Women of the Year, Featured in Life Magazine, Recipient of President George Bush's Points of Light Award, Advisory Board of UHCL, Bay Area Bank and Transportation Board of Greater Houston, Charter Member of Bay Area Museum and of course she was the Founder of Seabrook's Breakfast with Santa.



Lois said it best, "I would like to say that I have not had anything in my experience of working in public service that has been so rewarding as Breakfast with Santa." The 2018 Breakfast with Santa event and the annual Seabrook Christmas Tree Lighting were both dedicated to the memory of Lois. The city's Christmas Tree sits in Mohrhusen Park, the park named after Lois in her honor for her many years of service to parks and open spaces, right next to the Marcy Fryday Pelican Path and the Seabrook Community House. As you pass by the tree take a moment to remember Lois' larger than life personality plus her compassion, kindness and public service to the Seabrook community. Lois will be dearly missed.



Yours Truly, LeaAnn Dearman Petersen

2019 New Year's

# REDUCE & RECYCLE

Resolution!

## REDUCE 3 WAYS...



Use reusable bags at the grocery store



Unsubscribe from junk mail



Purchase a reusable water bottle and use your own coffee mug instead of foam or disposable cups



# RECYCLING RULES

1. RECYCLE ALL BOTTLES, CANS AND PAPER
2. KEEP ITEMS CLEAN AND DRY
3. NO PLASTIC BAGS

Certain offenders can slow down the recycling process or even ruin the load.

Make the Promise at [RecycleOftenRecycleRight.com](http://RecycleOftenRecycleRight.com) ...and then pass it on

Participation is Key



With the help of communities across the country, Waste Management recycled enough material last year to fill 168,819 Boeing 737s.

### Always recycle:



Plastic Bottles & Containers



Food & Beverage Cans



Paper



Flattened Cardboard & Paperboard



Food & Beverage Cartons

### Do NOT include in your recycling cart:



NO Food Waste



NO Plastic Bags & Film



NO Foam Cups & Containers



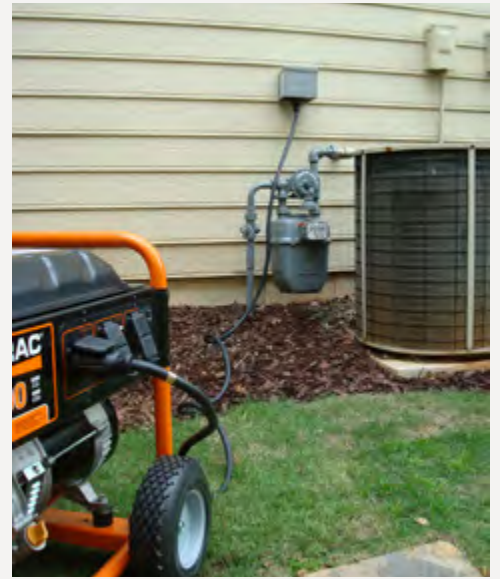
NO Needles

The average Seabrook home will see an **increase of \$2.68** in their utility bill for the first full cycle starting in January 2019. The rate increase is due to recycling changes from tariffs, a Consumer Price Index increase and a fuel surcharge increase. Recycling **RIGHT** will help keep recycling and trash fees low!



# Home Safety this Winter

The Farmer's Almanac is predicting a cold winter and we have already seen very cold temperatures throughout the region. The SVFD wants to make sure you are staying warm but safe this winter season

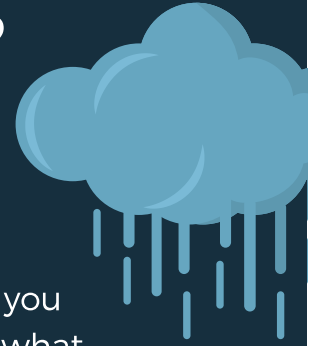


**Did you know that home fires occur more in the winter than any other season and that heating is the second leading cause of home fires?** It may seem perfectly safe to turn on your heat or pull out a space heater when temperatures drop, but hidden fire dangers may be lurking. Below are some safety tips from the US Fire Administration:

- Keep portable generators outside, away from windows, and as far away as possible from your home.
- Install and test carbon monoxide alarms at least once a month.
- Have a qualified professional clean and inspect your chimney and vents every year.
- Store cooled ashes in a tightly covered metal container, and keep it outside at least 10 feet from your home and any nearby buildings.
- Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet from any heat source like fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators or space heaters.
- Plug only one heat-producing appliance (such as a space heater) into an electrical outlet at a time.

# Is your home likely to flood?

FIND OUT THE EXTENT OF PAST FLOODING IN YOUR AREA.



Community Development staff can tell you about the causes of repetitive flooding, what the City is doing about it, and what would be an appropriate flood protection level. City staff can also provide advice on how to correct drainage issues, information on grant opportunities in order to elevate your home, and other flood protection assistance including sources for financial assistance. Call (281) 291-5669 for more information or to request one-on-one site visits.



## WE ARE SEEKING BOARD & COMMISSION MEMBERS

Do you want to give back to your community?  
Do you have time to attend monthly or quarterly meetings?

**WHY NOT APPLY TO BE ON A CITY OF SEABROOK BOARD OR COMMISSION?**



Seabrook City Council will be appointing new members to the Planning Zoning Commission, Board of Adjustment, Ethics Review Commission & Charter Review Commission after the first of the year. Apply to sit on any of these boards by filling out the application online at [www.seabrooktx.gov/boards](http://www.seabrooktx.gov/boards).



## CITIZEN EXCHANGE SAFETY ZONE

Let Go... Craigs List... Facebook Market Place...  
In a digital age, it is easy to buy, sale and trade goods and services. The Seabrook Police Department wants you to feel safe during these transactions.

Meet at the Seabrook Community House Citizen Exchange Safety Zone that is monitored 24-7 by the Seabrook PD.



**Speeding endangers everyone on the road.** According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, in 2016, speeding killed 10,111 people, accounting for more than a quarter (27%) of all traffic fatalities that year. We all know the frustrations of modern life and juggling a busy schedule, but speed limits are put in place to protect all road users.

Even one life lost to speeding is one too many, and here in Seabrook not only are we pro-actively urging motorists to slow down we are also taking precautions to help slow down motorists commuting through our city. Seabrook City Council recently approved an ordinance, the “Comprehensive Update of Speed Limits and Zones”, that lowers the speed limit on city owned streets from the state mandated 30 mph to 25 mph. This is part of an ongoing effort to address speeding within Seabrook. Over the next several months Public Works will be installing the new speed limit signs throughout the city.

Residents can also help deter speeding in their own neighborhoods by informing the city of speeding or other traffic concerns. The Residential Traffic Action Request Form ([www.seabrooktx.gov/traffic-form](http://www.seabrooktx.gov/traffic-form)) was developed to allow residents to notify the Police Department, Public Works and city management of recurring traffic violations.

Upon receiving a request, staff will review the violations and refer to the Residential Traffic Management Plan for guidance. The plan establishes consistent procedures for addressing traffic related issues that may occasionally arise. Neighborhood traffic issues specifically addressed in the plan include the following:

- No Parking Zone Implementation Requests
- Resident Only Restricted Parking Requests
- Cut Through Traffic Mitigation Requests
- Pedestrian Treatment Requests
- School Zone Safety Requests
- Speed Control Requests
- Intersection Control Requests (Multi- way Stops, Traffic Signals and Roundabouts)
- Other Advisory or Advance Warning Sign Requests
- Other Public Safety and Traffic Issue Requests
- Permanent Speed Display Signage Requests

The entire plan can be downloaded at: [www.seabrooktx.gov/traffic-management](http://www.seabrooktx.gov/traffic-management) and residents are encouraged to review the plan prior to completing the Residential Traffic Action Request Form ([www.seabrooktx.gov/traffic-form](http://www.seabrooktx.gov/traffic-form)). This along with increased patrol and other methods are ways the city is addressing traffic issues in Seabrook and creating a Safe and Secure City

You can personally do your part to keep our roadways safe by becoming more aware of your own speed. Did you know the majority of speeders in residential areas are actually residents who live in the area? While yes, we do see cut-through traffic in Seabrook, the person you see speeding may live only a few blocks from your home. Not to mention you too may be guilty of speeding. Life happens and we are all in hurry, but speed limits are designed to protect everyone - drivers, passenger, pedestrians - everyone. The next time you get behind the wheel, please remember to **Stop Speeding Before It Stops You.**

# seabrook **REVIEW**



## City of Seabrook Contact Information

### CITY HALL



**(281) 291.5600**

1700 1st Street  
Seabrook, TX 77586

7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mon- Thurs.  
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Fridays

Customer Service:  
City Secretary:  
Comm/Events:

(281) 291.5713  
(281) 291.5663  
(281) 291.5777

### POLICE DEPARTMENT



**(281) 291.5610**

1400 Cook Street  
Seabrook, TX 77586

**Dial 911 in the event of an Emergency**

Open 24 hours

### MUNICIPAL COURT



**(281) 291.5674**

1700 1st Street  
Seabrook, TX 77586

7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mon- Thurs.  
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Fridays

### Public Works Complex



**(281) 291-5725**

Public Works &  
Building Departments

1100 Red Bluff Rd  
Seabrook, TX 77586

**(281) 291.5644**

Animal Shelter Hours

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mon-Friday  
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturdays

Visit us online at [www.seabrooktx.gov](http://www.seabrooktx.gov)