

Happy February 2026 and we are off and running with much going on in our City/Community. This year is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the City's inception in 2001.

By the time you read this, the decision will have been made to either de annex the piece of land as requested by the Fair group, so that the changes inside Hideaway can be completed, or not. As of this writing, it has not been decided yet. I would like to thank everyone who reached out to myself and the aldermen with their thoughts, including some former mayors and aldermen. The Club has already agreed to the proposed changes on their end, so its left up to this last piece.

An Order of Election has been posted as well as three city aldermen seats are coming up for election. There will be additional information on that in this edition of the Hideaway News. These elections are only about serving the City, and are not part of the Hideaway Board of Directors.

ONCOR is still working on upgrading our reliability here by replacing lines, transformers, poles and adding another power station near FM16 for us. That should decrease the amount of power outages quite a bit I am told.

FM 16 project behind us is moving along and completion date is 2027. They are widening FM 16 to take up some of the County Road leading to the back gate, and I have spoken with our county commissioner about lowering the speed limit back there and widening the road a bit, as the traffic will be increasing.

And just for fun... some interesting demographic information about Hideaway. Did you know the median age here is 59 years. Median per capita income is \$51,500 and the Median Household Income is about \$91,000 a year. The official poverty rate is about 4%. With approximately 3400 residents, we are made up 46% male and 54% female. Approximately 36% of our residents are 65 years of age and up and mostly retired. The city occupies about 2.1 square miles.

For those who know me, you know I can't stand cold weather. So here's hoping for an early spring!

Chet Thomas, Mayor