

“If you have the choice between humble and cocky, go with cocky. There’s always time to be humble later, once you’ve been proven horrendously, irrevocably wrong.” If you’ve been around Texas politics for any number of years, you might remember Kinky Friedman, who was indeed a character who ran for governor a time or two. Kinky was what we like to call “eccentric”, wearing a signature black shirt, pants and cowboy hat, cigar, and an arsenal of colloquialisms. I kind of miss the guy. He said the obvious in a way that made you take pause and listen. But in the world of politics, I believe his quote above was quite fitting.

There have been a few times in my life where I was pretty sure I was correct about something and stood my ground, only to be presented with facts and evidence that undermined my position. There isn’t a much more unpalatable thing than a big slice of humble pie served cold. So, over the years I have tried to listen more and speak less. Two ears and one mouth for a reason, right? And for the most part it has worked out better for me to use this approach, whether in my paying gig or the role of Mayor in Hideaway.

Last month we had the Purple Heart designation for our city, and the sign has been placed at the front entrance. I love seeing that when I drive in from work each day. This month, Tuesday the 18th of August, the Smith County Commissioners Court proclaimed “City of Hideaway Day” in Smith County, in honor of our 25th birthday as a City, and the resolution is being framed and hung in the Administration building. We also had the American Soldier Tribute to Toby Keith event with great community sponsors, and our State Senator and US Congressman donated items to be auctioned that went to two local veteran’s organizations. It has really been a month of celebration here in Hideaway! I was also honored to speak to the Hideaway/Lindale Kiwanis club this month. Always a great group doing great things for our community.

We also are making progress on bringing fiber optics to the community as well, to give you more affordable and desirable options in internet providers. The ONCOR poles and lines are in, and now they are waiting on the other vendors to move their lines off the old poles and onto the new ones, so they can remove the old poles. The back gate at CR436 and FM 16 is getting closer to completion, and by the time you read this, the new extension onto FM 16 should be in full use. We are also working on the budget for the coming year, and due to a filing with the public utilities commission, we hope to see more revenue generated for our Right of Way payments, which is what the city operates off of instead of sales or property taxes, which we do not need.

So, all in all a good month for the city. And yes, I might be feeling a little bit cocky about it. If I’m wrong, I’ll take Kinky’s advice and be humble later. But for now, I’ll take the win.

Chet Thomas, Mayor