

Our City of Hideaway is changing in so many ways and it is all good. It is not growing in the sense of other cities in that our boundaries are set, and our citizenship is established to the extent of the number of homes that can be built within Hideaway Lake Club, Inc. However, our culture and reputation are changing within our city limits and the property outside our city limits called our ETJ (extraterritorial jurisdiction).

The concept of ETJ did not exist in Texas until 1963, at which time the Legislature intended “to promote and protect the general health, safety, and welfare of the persons residing in and adjacent to the municipalities.” The City of Hideaway is a Type B municipality with a population less than 5,000, so our established ETJ extends .5 miles past our city limits. We have control of a lot of things within our ETJ, but it is not a part of the city limits. One thing we do control within our ETJ is that we can extend our city limits into all, or part of the area encompassed within the ETJ, and halt any other city from encroaching into the area.

If you were at the last city meeting on July 13<sup>th</sup>, you heard a presentation from Bret Lindig, President of the Board of Directors of the Hideaway Club, of talks being conducted between the City of Hideaway, the Hideaway Club and Fair Properties of a trade, somewhat, that might involve our ETJ. Please be aware that we are quite cognizant of our duty to you, our citizens, of your . . . general health, safety, and welfare . . . and that we will conduct these meetings with these duties and our responsibility to you on our minds. Further, we will do our best to keep you informed as these negotiations develop.

I strive to keep my phones available to any citizen and the city is setting up lines of better communication. In this vein, we have decided the best and most efficient way to communicate is through email. If you wish, please share your email address with Gwyn Horn at [aldermanhorn@gmail.com](mailto:aldermanhorn@gmail.com) or 903-312-9066. She will be compiling an email data base of all citizens of Hideaway for this purpose only.

One other thing, speaking of growth and change, the City Secretary, Judy Blossom, has decided to retire after several years of outstanding service. She will be missed, terribly, I really can't say how much, too much. We are looking for her replacement. Please, we need this position filled. If interested, please call me: 903-882-5473 or email [ray.hutcheson@att.net](mailto:ray.hutcheson@att.net).

Service has its own rewards, and serving our valuable city is most rewarding.