

Happy Holidays, Hideaway! 'Tis the Season to deck the halls, wrap the presents, visit with friends and loved ones, and watch the smiles on the little ones' faces as they behold the wonderment of it all. I can remember the anticipation, as a youngster, of Santa delivering all the stuff we asked for after scouring the Sears & Roebuck catalog. Yep, I am that old. Then we woke up and discovered the gifts that we received from "Santa." It was a different time when we had to wait for things like shoes and clothes and the coveted toy. One of my favorite traditions is still the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at church, which always emphasized the "reason for the season" as celebrated by Christianity.

On to the City stuff. We are applying for a grant to provide ballistic vests for our Security officers. After the shooting incident earlier this year when they were targets, we started looking into it. I brought it before the Board of Alderman that the grant would possibly cover most of the costs, and we would have to make up the rest. After some discussion, it was unanimously approved to apply for the grant. I have sent the paperwork off and am waiting for a decision.

I have also been selected to serve a two-year term on the Tyler Area Metropolitan Planning Policy Committee, which oversees the transportation planning and prioritization for a majority of Smith County. It consists of representatives from Tyler, Smith County, TxDOT, and NET RMA, Lindale, Whitehouse, and now Hideaway.

As I write this, the Fair Expansion Proposal is still before the Club for a decision, and then it will come over to the City for a decision on the anticipated de-annexation request. I will write more about this in the next article after some movement has occurred.

Hideaway had its first ever National Night Out, organized by the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Team. First responders from our Constable's office and K9 Unit, UT Health EMS, Lindale Fire Department fire trucks, Smith County Emergency Management, TISD Police, and Roy Wilt from our own Hideaway Security participated. Hot dogs and drinks were prepared by our very own Clubhouse Grill, and our Hideaway Lake Community Church provided facepainting and bounce houses for the youngsters! Many thanks to everyone who had a part in putting that together!

Back to Christmas. Sometimes the best gifts for people in your life aren't presents, but your presence. Be intentional with your time. It's often the perfect and most appreciated gift you can give someone.