

October 2015

I thought I'd throw out some more random thoughts as we slip into the change of seasons.

- I love October.

It's the best month of the year. The weather is beautiful. It just feels great to be outside. Football season is in full swing. Doves are flying. All the Houstonians have left Lake McQueeney. All is right with the world.

- In case you haven't noticed, there's a lot of construction going on.

Believe it or not, the city is engaged in over \$100,000,000 worth of capital projects right now. There are 8 zeros in that number, folks. It's all investments in our streets, drainage, sewer lines, water lines, electrical upgrades, industrial upgrades, parks, and the new library.

- I know our streets are a mess, and I don't like it either.

To everyone directly affected by the dust, inconvenience and noise – Thank you for your patience and understanding. I could tell you why it's taking so long, but I know you really don't want to hear it. (Call me if you do.) Even with everything going on now, we have barely scratched the surface of all we need to do to fix our streets and roads. This will be going on for as long as I'm around and beyond. The good news is that the end is in sight - at least the end of the beginning. The first course of paving should be done on River and Mountain Streets by the time this is printed. I love the smell of asphalt in the morning!

- Remember the street study we did over the summer?

Well, the data are in hand, and we will be prioritizing our next improvement projects with the help of that survey. We will be having a workshop on November 9th at 5:30 and the data will be presented and discussed by City Council. The workshop will be open to the public for observation.

- Park West is a Home Run.

I had so much fun watching those kids in the splash pad when we opened the park last week. What an incredible turnout for the opening! The playground is top notch. The nature trails are beautiful. Every time I drive by the MTR Skate Park, regardless of the time of day, someone is using it. Thanks to the citizens of Seguin for passing those bonds to make it all happen. Thanks also to our Parks Director, Jack Jones and his crew for overseeing everything, and making it all come together so well.

- Starcke Park is one of the best parks in Texas.

As I attended the TLU homecoming festivities last week, I had several returning alumni tell me how impressed they were with the golf course, playgrounds and walking trails at Starcke. Biff Alexander is doing a great job of keeping our golf course a first class layout. Like I've said before, it's sometimes good to see things through the eyes of others to appreciate what we have. Yes, we know the clubhouse needs help.

- ZDT's is a local treasure.

The new roller coaster called Switchback is bringing worldwide notoriety to Seguin. The two hardest working young people I know – owners Sarah and Danny Donhauser have made it all happen. By the time this is published, media from all over the world will have been here to rate and report on Switchback and its treacherous first drop. It is set to be open to the public this Saturday. Thank you Sarah and Danny for taking a blighted part of town and turning it into a point of community pride.

- Being Mayor can be really fun, Part 1.

As I write this, I have not yet had that first ride on Switchback, but by the time this is published, I will have had that ride. I was on hand during their media day yesterday (Wednesday), and hopefully had the time of my life! If the paper is publishing this instead of my obituary, it was a really great ride!

- Being Mayor can be really fun, Part 2.

Since the Randolph auxiliary field east of town has been upgraded and is now in use again, we have cultivated a good relationship with the command personnel at Randolph AFB, or Joint Base Randolph as they now call it. Due to this relationship, they have invited me to take a ride in the back seat of one of their T-38 jets next week. It's one of those bucket list things, and I am totally looking forward to it! Hopefully my innards can take it, and my breakfast will stay where it belongs.

- So many more thoughts, so little space....

Gosh I love this town!