

Last week, a newly elected city councilmember, who shall remain nameless, was lamenting to me about people constantly asking about various city projects. The councilmember remarked to me that he/she was surprised by how many people would approach he/she in social settings or public gatherings and grill them about stuff. Hey, better get used to it. That's the way of a public servant.

You know, we have two daily papers, a radio station, and every social media outlet filled with information, not to mention a rampant rumor mill, but people still don't seem to pay attention until it affects them directly.

The other day, a citizen actually told me we should have a "town hall" meeting every month, so people know what's going on. I said, Are you kidding me? We have 2 honest-to-goodness real "town hall" meetings every month! On the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays. And where are they held? - In our "Town Hall"! Imagine that! They are open to the public, and the public is invited to state their views on every item discussed. Each meeting is also fully covered by all local media.

Mind you, I'm not complaining... So with all this in mind, I thought I'd bring you up to date on just a few of the more visible projects going on right now.

Development Center – This is the old auto dealership building on the corner of Mountain Street and N. River Street, directly behind the Aumont Building. It has been an abandoned eyesore for several years. It is the former location of Seguin Motor Co., and before that, Cutcher Motor Co. The city purchased it a few years ago, and it will become our new Development Center. It will house our Planning, Codes, Code enforcement, Permitting, and our Capital Projects and Engineering Departments. Our rapid growth has our current facilities bursting at the seams, and we literally have people working in closets.

The new center will be a more efficient place for our staff to work. It will be a pleasing and attractive place for development meetings to take place, and it will be more accessible for our local contractors and citizens to obtain permits, and to meet with our inspectors and codes enforcement staff.

It will also be a beautiful addition to our rapidly improving downtown, and should be completed by August.

Heideke Street – I love the smell of asphalt in the morning! Sidewalks, curbs and everything underground have been completed, and the final asphalt layers are being put down on the section from College to Kingsbury. The only things left are general clean-up chores.

N. Milam Street – This will be a similar project to Heideke Street in that it will include curbs, drainage and utility improvements, and complete reconstruction of the road surface. The repairs will be from Mountain Street to Kingsbury Street. The engineering will be done by the end of 2019, and construction will begin in 2020.

College Street – This is one I get asked about constantly. Well, please be patient, because it is not scheduled until 2022. The main trunk lines of the storm drains have to be finished on all the North/South streets before we can begin the huge job of completely reconstructing everything under ground, and above ground on this very busy thoroughfare.

Walnut Branch Trail Extension – This project will extend the trail all the way from the Ruby Vaughn bridge at Convent St., follow the creek, pass under Austin Street, and connect with the walking path in Starcke Park East.

As I keep reminding people, Walnut Branch is the reason this town exists. It's ever-flowing spring water is the reason the Texas Rangers chose this spot to build a city. Completing this path along our most precious historical asset will give Walnut Branch the prestige it deserves. Imagine being able to walk from Starcke Park to Downtown in a beautiful, natural setting. The engineering will start soon, and construction will begin sometime in 2020. Maybe, just maybe it can be completed before I leave office in November of 2020.

These projects just scratched the surface of what's going on, so if you want to know more, call me at 830-401-2307 and leave a message, or email me at dkeil@seguintexas.gov.... Or you can call or email your councilmember. All that information can be found on our website.... Or you can come to a town hall...er...council meeting at 5:30 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of every month.

Gosh, I love this town!