



## ***Merry Christmas and a very blessed New Year!***

The Christmas season in Boerne is one of my favorite times of the year! Boerne's annual Weihnacht Parade, put on by the city's parks and recreation department, was one for the record books this year. We had over 100 parade entries and some of the most colorful floats we've seen in a long time. With the super weather we also estimate about 10,000 people were along the Hill Country Mile that night. One of the amazing things was that just a couple of hours after the parade was over, you could barely tell that there had been such a big parade on Main Street. These things just don't happen – there is extensive planning and coordination; dozens of staff, volunteers and law enforcement officers; and an exceptionally efficient clean-up crew. Kudos to all of you that made the event a spectacular success!

Every December I get the privilege of attending our annual Boerne Fire Department Christmas Awards dinner to recognize the terrific team of firefighters and emergency personnel that serve Kendall County, a 200 or so square mile area. These men and women, some career personnel and many dedicated volunteers, were recognized for their years of service to this community, and we had a chance to show our appreciation for their expertise and willingness to be first responders. We are indeed blessed to have these professionals in our area.

One of Boerne's long time traditions, almost twenty-five years, is the annual Christmas breakfast hosted by the Kendall County EMS members and their families. It's a great opportunity for empty nesters, travelers, or those that simply want to join the fun with friends and family to support a worthy cause. This fundraiser begins as 7:30 a.m. on Christmas morning at the Hungry Horse Restaurant here in Boerne and proceeds benefit the Russ Brenner EMS scholarship fund. The buffet breakfast is by donation and to-go plates will be available. Don't dawdle though because when the food is gone, it's gone.

Most of our city council meetings include some pretty mundane business, but this month we authorized an agreement to dramatically increase our access to digital services for our public library – we are now part of a team of eleven other area cities that have mutual access to Bibliotheca Cloudlibrary digital services. Back in 2015 when we first subscribed to this service, the library had access to about 1,000 e-books and digital audiobooks. Now with this new agreement, the Patrick Heath Public Library will be able to share approximately 86,000 items from these other libraries. Basically what this means is that people can use their e-readers to download more e-books without needing to physically go into the library.

As many of you know, I have lived in lots of places in this great country, but the Texas Hill Country is my favorite. There are so many great things about our area, but what I value most are

the people. I've had some amazing experiences as the mayor of Boerne these last six and a half years. The time has just flown by and it has been extraordinary - sure there are good days and bad days, but in the end it's the people of this community that I am so proud to represent. I will keep doing my very best as long as you will have me. My city council colleagues and I are required to live in the city limits, so we are all determined to make decisions that are in the best interest of the people we represent. One of our biggest goals, and certainly a very big challenge, is to manage our growth while still holding on to Boerne's unique character. We love this charming place and want to see it prosper in all the right ways.

Be safe wherever you spend your holidays. Enjoy friends and family and get yourself recharged because we probably have another very interesting year ahead of us. From Carol and me to you and yours, Merry Christmas - our hopes and prayers are for you to have a very blessed New Year!

Mayor Mike