



# Lago Vista Annual Report 2021

**“Live like you’re  
on vacation.”**

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Cover photo and bluebonnet photo  
courtesy of Stephen Spindler.





# A letter from **Mayor Tidwell**

## **Howdy Citizens of Lago Vista,**

It is 2022, and I am once again blessed with the opportunity to address you as your Mayor in the annual report. With summer just around the corner, I hope everyone is living like they are on vacation.

The last two years have proven to be a tough time for all. COVID came to light in March of 2020, and we are still dealing with it. Texas froze in February of 2021, and we are still dealing with the aftermath of that storm; however, we continue to move forward. We have elected six new council members in the past year and half. We have hired a new City Manager and have had some significant retirements, including our long serving Police Chief. Yet, our focus for Lago Vista to provide quality of life for all residents has not changed. As we continue to grow, I welcome our new leadership, the changes, and the challenges.

I, along with Council and staff, are committed to improving our City. We recently had our first Strategic Planning meeting with the new Council and City Manager. Although our short-term goals change and adapt each year, our mission remains steadfast. We share a common vision with the community, and we strive to see this vision materialize as we continuously plan and work with our citizens. Through individual meetings, board and committees, and council, we listen and appreciate your feedback, questions, and concerns. Together we create our identity as we grow out of our small-town shoes.

We will continue to see growing pains for the foreseeable future. We have several Planned Development Districts that were approved 15 to 20 years ago just starting to move forward with their developments. We have retail steadily increasing and have seen lots and properties change hands or go in directions we never thought we would see. The closing of Dee

Dee's Tacos and the relocation of Lago Vista Marine are just two examples. Whether you consider it good or bad, more things will change, and others will grow. In the next five to ten years, FM 1431 and Lohman Ford will expand. Our schools continue to grow with the District turning into 4A. With the growth of our residents, the need for quality of life is imperative. Parks and businesses along Dawn Drive will produce and prosper. The need for our Municipal complex to grow and expand will be necessary as we bring new amenities, services, and facilities to the citizens.

I cannot express my thanks enough for all the input you provide to the Council and staff. You seek us out! You meet with us in small group settings, volunteer for boards and committees, participate in meetings, and encourage our businesses through the Chamber. You provide so much outside knowledge and information about what you see going on in the City. You may be on other boards such as the school board, the ESD board, or the POA board that work with us throughout the year. Your contribution is appreciated immensely. Let me not forget our civil servants. Thank you to our Firefighters and Medics that show up in a moment's notice whenever we have an emergency. Thank you to our Police. You have seen many cities and counties not only turn their backs on you but seek to change or eliminate you all together. The City of Lago Vista greatly appreciates what you do for us and will always be there for you.

We will continue to need your input for us to let the world around us know who we are and what we are all about. I look forward to working with all of you in the future.

Sincerely,

**Mayor Ed Tidwell**

# Elected Officials

The City of Lago Vista is a home-rule city. The City Council is the legislative branch and governing body of the City and has control of all the City finances, property, functions, services, affairs and programs according to the City Charter. The City Council consists of a Mayor and six (6) Council Members. The Mayor and Council Members are elected from the City at Large.



**Gage Hunt**  
Council Place 1



**Kevin Sullivan**  
Council Place 2



**Rob Durbin**  
Council Place 3



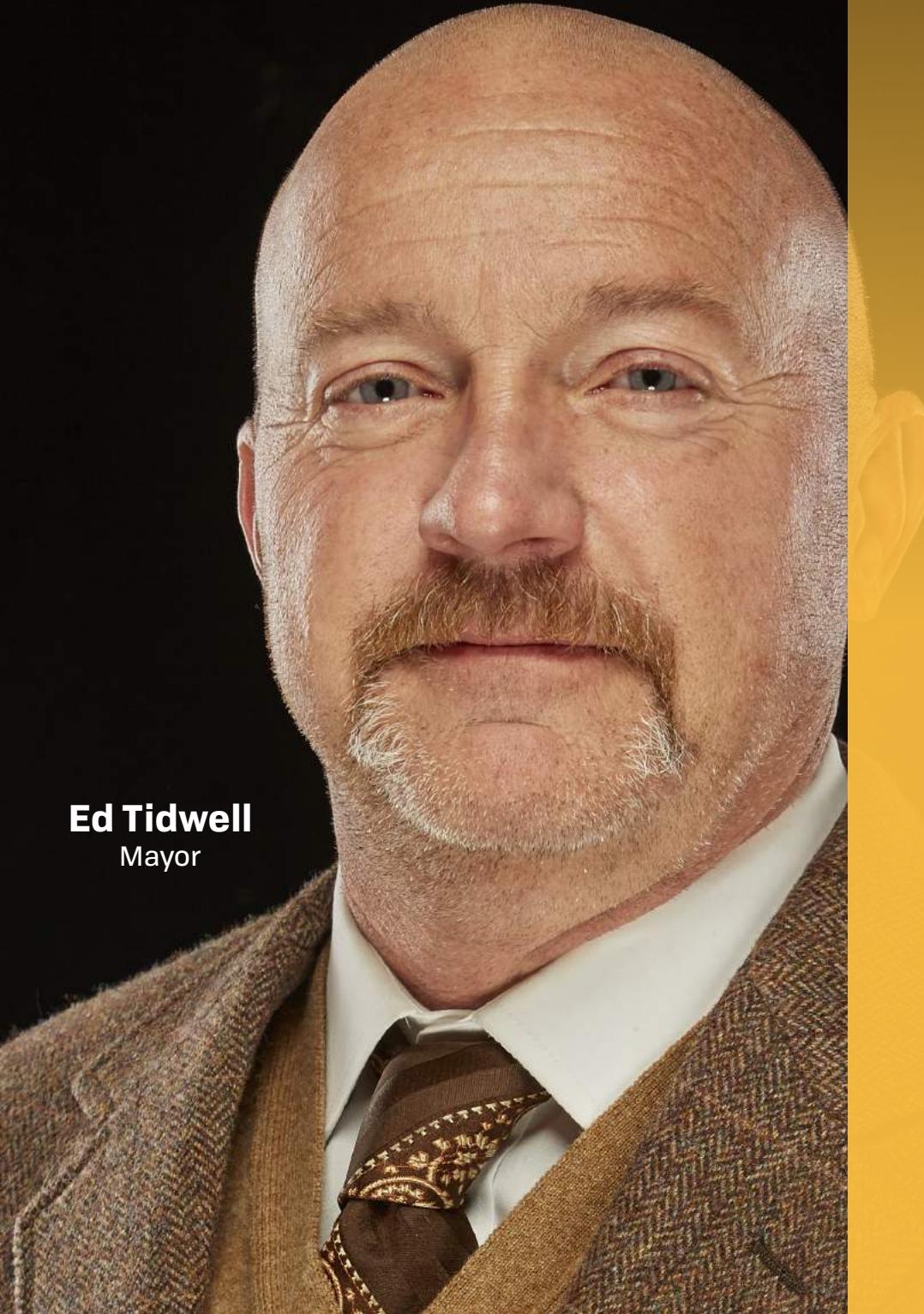
**Chelaine Marion**  
Council Place 4



**Paul Roberts**  
Council Place 5

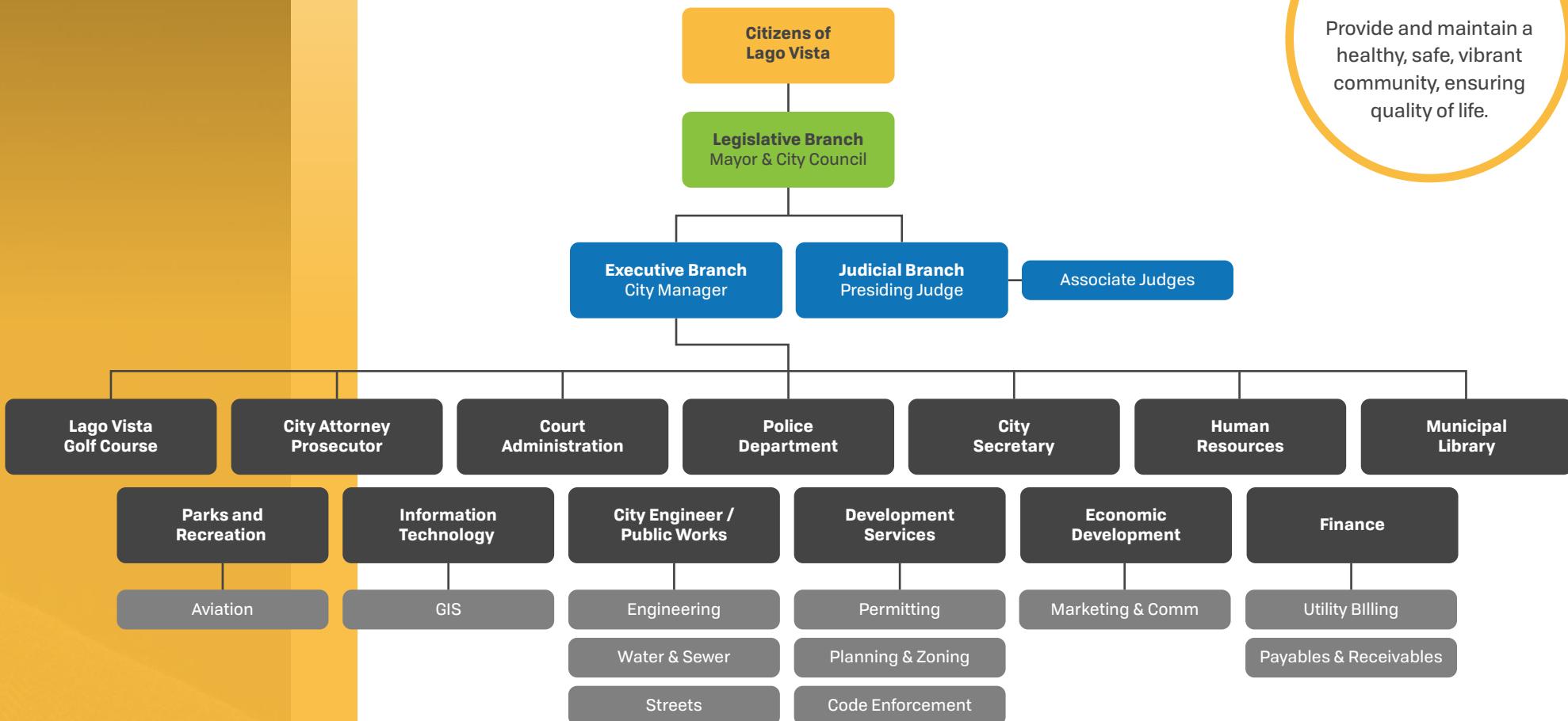


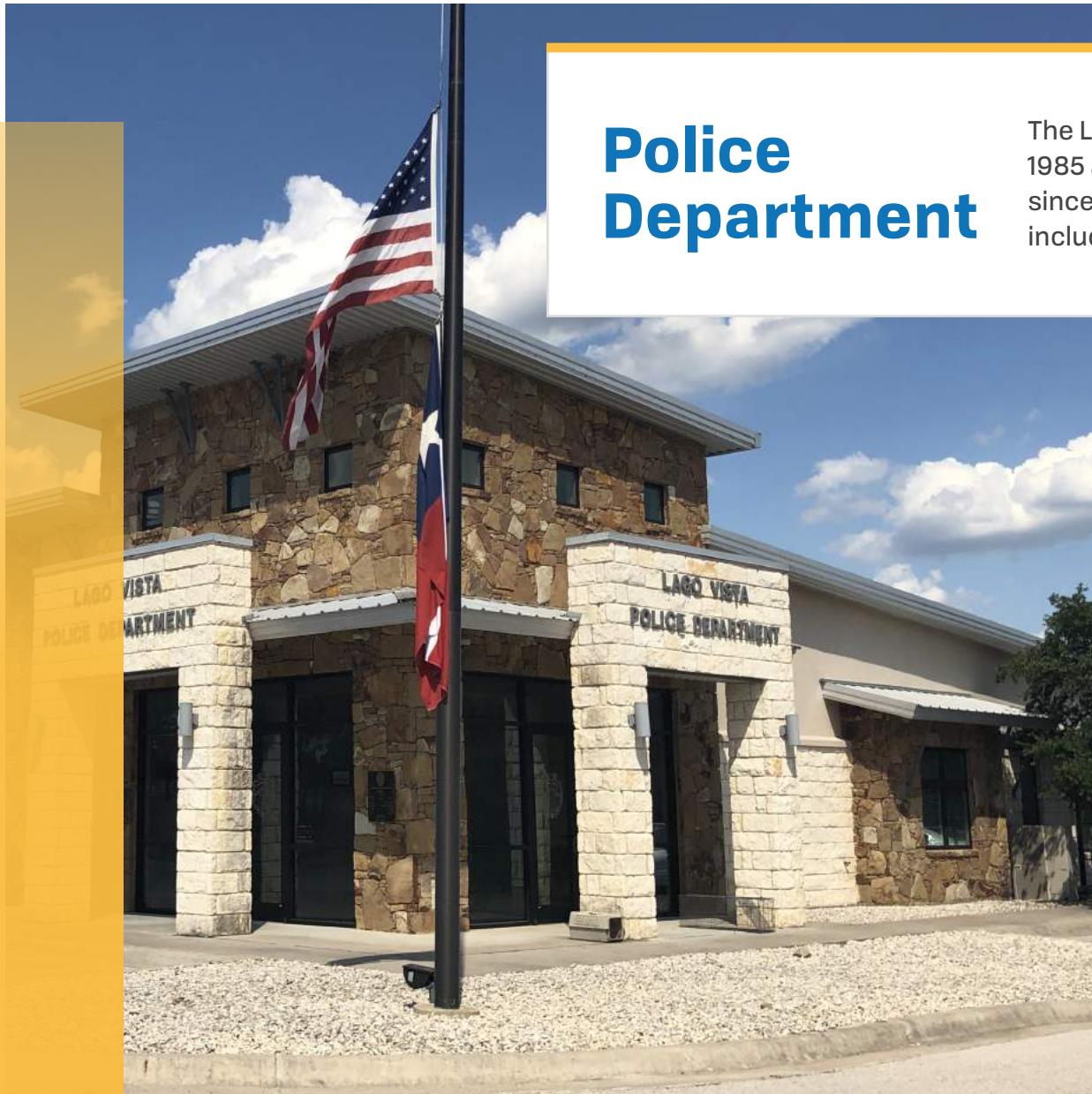
**Paul Prince**  
Council Place 6



**Ed Tidwell**  
Mayor

# Organizational Chart





# Police Department

The Lago Vista Police Department was established in 1985 and has proudly served the community ever since. The Department has 20 full-time sworn officers, including the Chief, plus reserve officers.

## AT A GLANCE

**20**  
Full-Time Officers

**5,965**  
Calls for Service

**1,013**  
Offense Reports

**45**  
Arrests

**135**  
Accidents

**837**  
Citations

**272**  
Animal Calls

**119K+**  
Miles Patroled

# Development Services

Our Development Services Department (DSD) assists several groups including existing and future Lago Vista residents, developers, builders, and contractors.

## AT A GLANCE

**\$830K+**

Annual Expenses

**\$1.7M+**

Annual Revenue

**425**

New Residential Permits

**9**

New Commercial Permits

**1,846**

Notices of Violation

**249**

Zoning Applications



# Public Works

The Public Works Department is committed to providing high quality engineering, safe and reliable water and wastewater services, street maintenance and repairs, and other community focused services to make our city better.

## STREETS / ROADS

<b>\$1.3M+</b>	<b>622</b>
Annual Expense	Tons of Asphalt (Applied by City)
<b>10K+</b>	<b>14</b>
Tons of Asphalt (Applied by Contractors)	Roads Rehabbed

## WATER / WASTEWATER

<b>\$3.1M+</b>	<b>\$2.4M+</b>
Annual Expense for Water Services	Annual Expense for Sewer Services
<b>431M+</b>	<b>159M+</b>
Gallons of Water Treated	Gallons of Wastewater Treated

## SOLID WASTE

<b>\$945K+</b>	<b>4,527</b>
Annual Expense	Tons of Trash Collected
<b>1,131</b>	Tons of Recyclables Collected

## GRANTS AWARDED

### FEMA

#### Lago Vista Emergency Generator

Keeps the water treatment plant operational in the event of power failure

**\$110,130 Federal Cost**

**\$73,420 Local Cost**

### LCRA

#### Leak Detection Survey & Repair

Locate and repair leaks in water supply system to conserve water and save money

**\$17,632 LCRA Cost**

**\$53,468 City Cost**



# Public Library

As a cornerstone of the community, the Library's mission is to encourage the love of reading and enrich the quality of life for all of our citizens by providing access to reading materials, information resources, and lifelong learning opportunities.



## GRANTS AWARDED

### TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL

#### Collections Enhancement

For the purchase of large print and audiobooks

**\$2,500**

### LAGO VISTA WOMAN'S CLUB

#### TumbleBookLibrary

For a subscription to TumbleBookLibrary for children

**\$1,000**

### LAGO VISTA LIONS CLUB

#### Children's Summer Reading Program

**\$900**

## AT A GLANCE

**\$197K+**

Annual Expenses

**\$8,276**

Annual Revenue

**11,607**

Patron Visits

**58**

Programs

**793**

Program Attendance

**18,751**

Materials Circulated

**\$291K+**

Money Saved by Patrons

**874**

Volunteer Hours

## Friends of the Library

Following a 2-day book sale fundraiser (by mail), Friends of the Library invested \$14,693 into the library's print and electronic collections, children's program, and other miscellaneous needs.



## Rusty Allen Airport

The Rusty Allen Airport is a municipally owned and operated general aviation airport. The airport is recognized by the Federal Aviation Administration.

### Other Highlights

- Pilot's lounge was painted and landscaped
- Security system installed to monitor tie-down spaces, fuel tank and fuel system

### AT A GLANCE

**\$352K+**

Annual Expenses

**\$345K+**

Annual Revenue

**84K+**

Gallons of  
Fuel Available

**86**

Based  
Aircraft

**14**

Long-Term  
Tie Downs

**3**

Short-Term  
Tie Downs

**\$14K+**

Grants Received

# Parks and Recreation

The Parks and Recreation Department strives to offer quality leisure opportunities and safe, attractive parks for all our residents to enjoy.

## AT A GLANCE

**\$358K+**

Annual Expenses

**\$8,944**

Annual Revenue

**\$102K+**

Annual Budget for  
Aquatics Center

**7,440**

Patron Visits to  
Aquatics Center

**626**

Operating Hours of  
Aquatics Center

**27**

Youth Baseball and  
Softball Teams

**7**

Parks and  
Green Spaces

**6**

Pickleball  
Courts

**4**

Baseball  
Fields

**3**

Tennis  
Courts



## Lago Vista Golf Course

Located in the beautiful Texas Hill Country, Lago Vista Golf Course provides breathtaking scenery with 18 holes of incredible golf. Our par 72 course offers 6,544 yards of challenges to keep you focused throughout your golf experience.

### AT A GLANCE

**\$1M+**

Annual Expenses

**\$930K+**

Annual Revenue

**30K+**

Rounds Played

**\$40K**

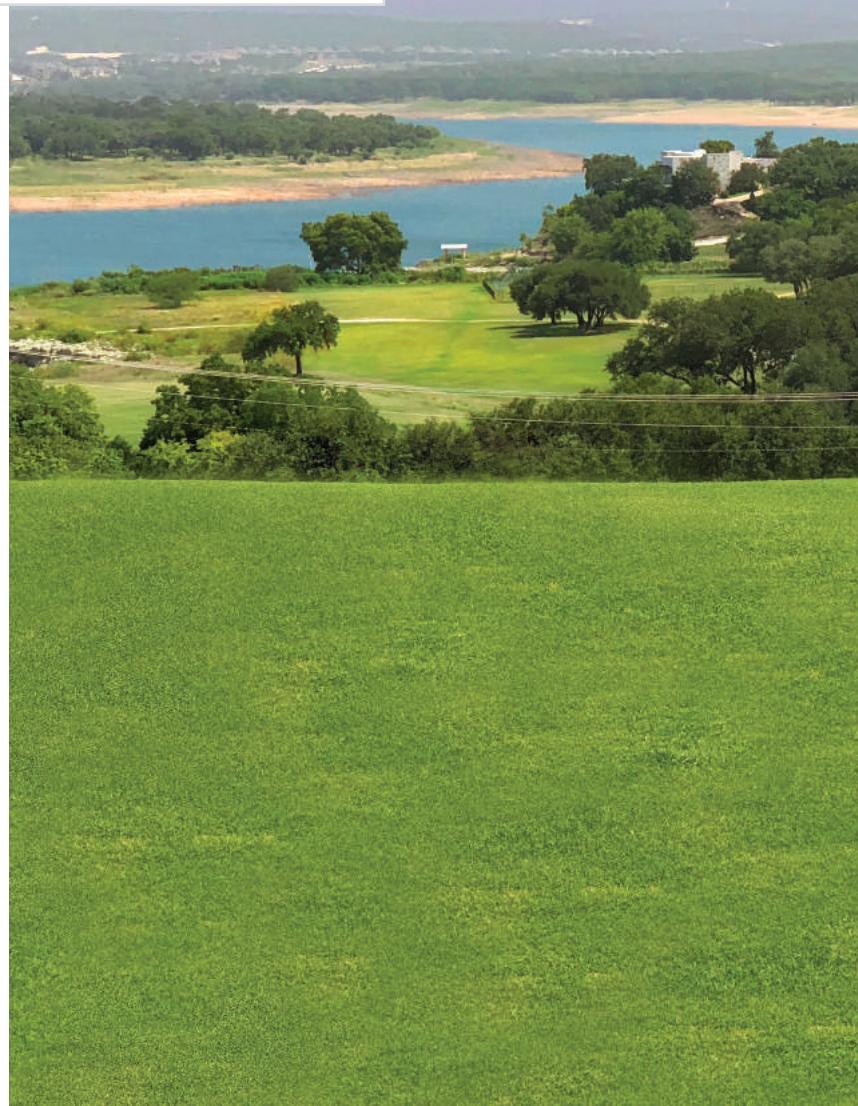
Revenue Generated for  
Community Groups

**85**

Members

**19**

Tournaments



# Information Technology

The Information Technology and Communications Department (IT) is committed to build a quality and comprehensive technology infrastructure and deliver quality, prompt, cost effective and reliable technology services for all divisions of the City of Lago Vista and its citizens.

## AT A GLANCE

- The incorporation of Swagit for recording all meetings
- The completion of the update refresh plan, updating all servers and desktops to Windows 10 and Server 2016
- IT responded to 325 help desk tickets created by staff throughout the year
- Ongoing maintenance and monitoring for all city systems and networks
- Added three cameras to monitor the front parking lot of City Hall
- Assisted the Human Resources department with the incorporation of the new time clocks for the organization



# Economic Development

The Economic Development Department strives to improve the economic climate and quality of life of the Lago Vista community through the recruitment of new industries, the retention and expansion of existing businesses, and fostering and encouraging new small business startups.

## Demographics

**8,896**

Population

**47.3%**

Population Growth  
2010 - 2020

**51.3**

Median Age

**3,256**

Households

**65.8%**

Home Ownership  
Rate

**\$85,070**

Median Household  
Income

**\$45,343**

Per Capita Income

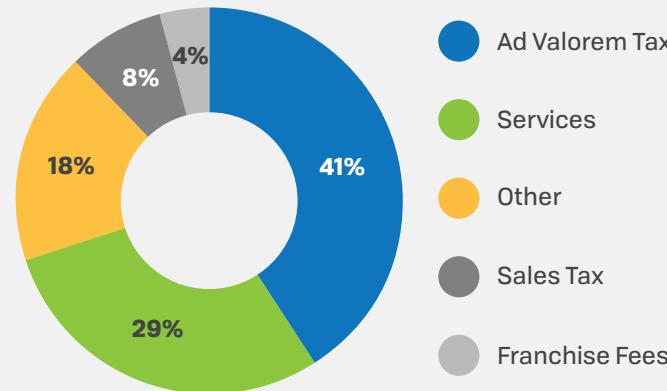
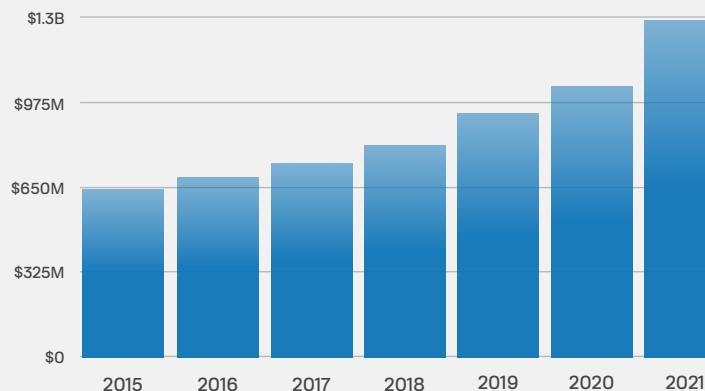
**94.6%**

High School Grads

**37.2%**

College Grads

## FINANCIALS

**General Fund Total Revenue - \$11,530,720.31****Property Values****Reserves**

General Fund Reserve	\$1,741,999.08
Utility Fund Reserve	\$7,215,803.67
Hotel Fund Reserve	\$694,931.07

**Total Reserve** **\$9,652,733.82**

Long-Term Debt	\$30,856,000.00
Property Valuation	\$1,133,017,137.00

**Ad Valorem Tax Levy and Designations**

# Community Events

APRIL

## Lago Fest

Lago Fest, commonly held in the early spring of each year, was cancelled for the second year in a row in 2021. The decision to cancel was made based on COVID-19 risk-based guidelines applicable at that time as set forth by Travis County Public Health Officials.



Lago Fest, the North Shore's largest music, art, and food festival, was held on April 30, 2022 – it's fifth "anniversary". The festival was held on the banks of Lake Travis in beautiful Bar K Park, and festivalgoers were welcomed by land or boat.

Lago Fest draws crowds from all over Central Texas to enjoy free performances by award-winning musical artists, peruse and purchase works of handmade art and crafts by Texas artists, and sip and sample menu items from a host of food and beverage vendors. A dedicated Kids Zone provides hours of fun for the whole family. A VIP Lounge and helicopter rides over Lake Travis offer a unique festival experience.

The 2022 headlining performer was Shinyribs - a sonic melting pot of Texas blues, New Orleans R&B funk, horn-driven Memphis soul, country twang, border music, big band swing, and roots-rock. Shinyribs is a favorite on stage at ACL Moody Theater, Old Settlers Music Festival, and Armadillo Christmas Bazaar. Previous headliners have included Asleep at the Wheel and Ray Wylie Hubbard.

Lago Fest is free to attend.

For more information, visit [LagoFest.com](http://LagoFest.com).



**MARCH**

## La Primavera Bicycle Race

The Texas Bicycle Racing Association's La Primavera Bicycle Race held each year in Lago Vista was cancelled in 2021 due to COVID-19 safety concerns. The race was held again in 2022 on March 5 and 6.

**JULY**

## 4th of July Council's Freedom Fest

The Lago Vista 4th of July Council presented Freedom Fest with day-long activities on Saturday, July 3, 2021, to celebrate our country's Independence Day. Freedom Fest activities included a parade, Lago Vista's Firecracker 5k Chip Timed Race and Fun Run, live music, and fireworks in Bar K Park.

**DECEMBER**

## Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration and Trail of Lights

Christmas was here again in Lago Vista!

In 2020, City Staff developed the Trail of Lights as an alternative to the Lago Vista Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration – an event that draws hundreds of people in one small area outside City Hall. The Trail of Lights was the perfect solution to follow COVID-19 safety precautions yet still offer citizens a place to gather at their own leisure to enjoy the holiday lights.

In 2021, both the Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration and the Trail of Lights returned along with Santa on his big, red firetrucks. More than a thousand people came to kick off the season as City Council members led the countdown to lighting the Christmas tree and all other trees and buildings in City Hall Plaza and down



Dawn Drive. Performances by the Lago Vista Dance Studio, Hill Country Singers, Lago Vista High School Drill Team and Marching Band kept things festive while local churches (Rolling Hills Community Church, Grace Fellowship Church, Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church) and non-profits (Lions Club, Hope Center, Cub Scouts, Lago Vista Starry Skies Group, Parks and Rec Committee) offered free hot dogs, hot chocolate, popcorn, cookies, gifts, and other goodies. Kids young and old waited eagerly for their free photos with Santa while entertained by holiday music, both courtesy of the Lago Vista Property Owners Association.

The Trail of Lights – a near dreamlike environment – was full of people walking and taking pictures amongst the expertly lit Live Oak trees at the Celebration and in the weeks to follow. Several families were spotted visiting the lights on Christmas Eve nearly up until time Santa was due to make his worldwide trip! Holiday joy was palpable. The Trail of Lights remains open nightly throughout the holiday.

# Contact Us

**City Hall**  
(512) 267-1155

**Police Dept**  
(512) 267-7141

**Public Works**  
(512) 267-1993

**Public Library**  
(512) 267-3868

**Golf Course**  
(512) 237-7272

## Hours of Operation

Monday – Thursday  
7:00 am – 6:00 pm



Tune into Lago Radio at 1670 AM  
or at [LagoRadio.org](http://LagoRadio.org)



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