

Issues Report for FCC
KNAF AM 910 & KNAF FM 105.7- Fredericksburg Texas

FISD Superintendent- DR. Brasher

- 1) Housing challenges – affordability and availability are both issues when new hires cannot find affordable or available housing we lose the prospect of long term quality employees and teachers.
- 2) Employee shortage- with the absence of affordable housing we have a shortage of employees to work across all positions in the district. Not only does it affect teachers but those positions that make less than teachers are difficult to fill: bus drivers, cafeteria workers, janitors, ect.
- 3) Mental Health Crisis among students. We have an overwhelming increase in mental health needs among the student population. The school is not equipped with the tools necessary to combat this need. The counselors are stretched and don't have adequate support, funding, or outside resources to refer families to. As a result of mental health needs grades suffer and fall into the background of importance for these families.

Economic Development Board – Tim Lihnberg (President)

- 1) The Labor shortage in Fredericksburg is a problem for every industry and it is intertwined with #2- Long term employees do not commute to work. We are already seeing the issue of people coming in from other places to work in our largest employment fields – the hospital and schools- most people will not do this for long so turnover is high.

- 2) Affordable Housing is a Major issue. Prices are rising and property taxes are rising - there is not enough inventory so it exasperates the cost even further. People are drawn here for the quality of life, but then are unable to find quality affordable housing.
- 3) Traffic/parking/mobility related issues are difficult to manage in Fredericksburg. One a decade for the last 60 years the city has debated a relief route. We have 3 major highways that merge onto Main Street of what is supposed to be a quaint, historic town. The traffic causes congestion downtown and produces loud noise from continuous cars and large trucks. In addition to the traffic we see a parking issue in town. There is not adequate parking for the number of cars coming to town daily. Then it spills on to the sidewalks and becomes a foot traffic issue also. The sidewalks in downtown are congested and sometime leads people to jaywalk. We also have large crowds crossing at crosswalks, which further exasperates the issue of the cars being backed up as the walkers are an endless stream across the intersections.
- 4) Fredericksburg's infrastructure is not adequate for the influx of visitors to the area. The Broad band and cell services take a hit with all the extra people in town. This prevents the availability of reliable adequate use of technology not only for residents and visitors, but also for businesses.

Fredericksburg Chamber of Commerce –Penny McBride- President

- 1) Housing shortage displaces people away from the city, causing a workforce shortage.

- 2) Workforce Shortage causes businesses to struggle to meet the demand of patrons, often causing the closure of businesses.
- 3) In Fredericksburg we have a HUGE disparity in the economic groups. On one hand we have the most millionaires per capita and on the other hand more than 50% of the students in our schools are economically disadvantaged and require assistance programs to meet basic needs.

Fredericksburg Police Department- Chief Steven Wetz

- 1) Traffic, both vehicle and pedestrian foot traffic – multiple veins of traffic merge on Main St. causing congestion
- 2) Parking – not adequate for the needs of the volume of visitors

Hill Country Community Needs Council- Denise –Community Relations

- 1) Affordable Housing – inventory is low, rent is high so it is hard to get ahead or just caught up when unforeseen financial things arise. Families are living in multigenerational housing situations to make ends meet.
- 2) Child Care Availability- Even when families have the means, there are not child care options available in town with the 3 largest child care resources closing down over the last year.
- 3) Low Wages/Lack of Benefits- Employment in the area is overwhelmingly lower income service industry jobs that lack benefits such as sick time and insurance. If a working person gets the flu and misses a week of pay that quickly translates to financial struggle and even crisis.
- 4) Drug Abuse- few people in town speak of the drug abuse in our community. Many are seeking drug help from the Needs Council,

sometimes as a court requirement, a child custody requirement, but also just on their own. When this need are not met, other issues a person deals with cannot even begin to be addressed.